

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RURAL CARRIER MANCEL PRINCE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Mancel Prince, a rural letter carrier from Decherd, Tennessee.

For over thirty years, Mr. Prince has carried out a service that began just 5 days before Christmas in 1899, when the Post Office Department decided to experiment with extending rural free delivery across an entire county for the first time. The service proved viable, and today constituents like mine and all across rural America receive their mail from dedicated carriers like Mr. Prince.

Today Mr. Prince is 89 years old, and has more than 70 years of government service in his past. He first joined the U.S. Army in 1938 and served on active duty in World War II, where he fought for the Allies under the command of General Patton, as well as in the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Mr. Prince retired from active duty in 1972 as a Command Sergeant Major in Field Artillery, and then joined the U.S. Postal Service. He has served on his route for nearly thirty five years, and currently serves more than 460 boxes over a span of 93.5 miles per day through parts of three counties. He is respected by co-workers and superiors alike and is praised for his work ethic. I understand, too, that he is currently the oldest active employee in the Tennessee District and to my knowledge, he has no plans to retire.

I would ask that my colleagues join me today in rising to honor a great servant of rural America, and a man who has dedicated so much of his life in service to the good of our nation.

HONORING THE TOWN OF BOURNE, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Town of Bourne, Massachusetts.

It was on this day in 1884 that the Town of Bourne claimed its rightful independence, a movement that marked the inception of Bourne Incorporated. The significance of the Town's foundation is reflected in historical data that depict a prolonged effort to distinguish its identity. As noted by the 1984 Bourne Centennial Celebration Committee, ineffectual attempts at separation were made in

the late 1770s and early 1800s—but it was not until 1883 that a successful movement began.

In large measure, geography governed the separation. Long trips were needed to get to the town meeting and in some cases to the meetinghouse. But more importantly, the division was a profound expression of the free will of the people. This movement perfectly epitomized the meaning of the phrase “of the people, by the people, for the people.” As the youngest township on Cape Cod, the Town of Bourne should be recognized for what has been its everlasting pledge to the preservation of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It is of the utmost importance that we pass on Bourne's rich history to current and future generations, and that we encourage the Town's youth to take pride in their heritage. As we reflect on the Town's 125-year existence, we must proudly recognize the pioneers who spearheaded the Town's founding and the superior achievements the Town and its citizens have realized over the years.

I congratulate all the citizens of the Town of Bourne on this auspicious day, and extend my best wishes for a successful and prosperous future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE “HAPPY” IRBY

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay respect to the life of George “Happy” Irby. Happy Irby passed away on his birthday, March 27th, at the age of 94 in his hometown, Columbus, Mississippi. He was a man that lit up a room. His perpetual optimism was contagious; his name “Happy,” was not just a nickname, it was a reflection of the way he lived his life.

Happy Irby worked as an activity coordinator at the Columbus Air Force Base's Officer's Club for 50 years. It is here he founded the Happy Christmas Fund, providing gifts for children in need on Christmas morning and giving fruit baskets to the elderly. He will be remembered as one of Mississippi's most avid philanthropists, which is why Mississippi State Highway 706 was renamed George “Happy” Irby Parkway.

Happy was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great grandfather. Happy was a proud and faithful member of Missionary Union Baptist Church, where he served as an usher.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for remembering George “Happy” Irby and his family at this time.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE MRS. ABBIE POWE SESSIONS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Monroe County—and the entire State of Alabama—recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Mrs. Abbie Powe Sessions and pay tribute to her memory.

A native of Branch in Choctaw County, “Miss Abbie” had been a resident of Hybart in Monroe County for most of her adult life. She graduated from high school in Silas and studied at both Livingston State Teachers College and Troy State Teachers College. A few years ago, she moved into a retirement community in Mobile so she could be closer to her family.

“Miss Abbie” was truly a steel magnolia. She was strong in her faith, devoted to her family and friends and a constant source of inspiration to all who knew and loved her. She was a homemaker and actively assisted her late husband, Jefferson B. Sessions Jr., in his country store and farm equipment business. Their only son, Senator JEFF SESSIONS, credits her hard work and frugality with instilling in him the value of a dollar and the importance of hard work.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a friend to many throughout south Alabama. Mrs. Abbie Powe Sessions will be dearly missed by her family—her son, Senator JEFF SESSIONS and his wife Mary; her three grandchildren, Mary Abigail Sessions Reinhardt, Ruth Blackshear Sessions Walk, and Samuel Turner Sessions; her great granddaughter, Jane Ritchie Reinhardt; her sister, Mary P. Powe; and her nephew, Harry A. Powe III—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, H.R. 985, the Free Flow of Information Act of 2009, creates a qualified privilege to protect journalists from being compelled by Federal authorities to disclose confidential sources or other non-public information they have collected in the course of their reporting.

A court could still compel disclosure when the public interest justifies it—in cases of terrorism or other significant national security threats, for example, or to prevent imminent death or significant bodily harm, or in pursuit of individuals who have illegally revealed confidential private information or sensitive national security secrets.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

In this way, the bill strikes a careful balance between the public's right to know and the needs of law enforcement, national security, and the fair administration of justice.

The protections of this bill have never been more crucial to a free press and an informed public. In recent years, the press has been under assault, as reporters are increasingly being subpoenaed—and in some cases imprisoned—for refusing to open their notebooks and disclose their confidential sources.

Right now, for example, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the Detroit Free Press named David Ashenfelter faces possible contempt charges for refusing to disclose sources who exposed serious prosecutorial misconduct. In the last Congress, Pulitzer Prize-winner Bill Safire and others testified on the importance of this bill. President Bush's Solicitor General Ted Olson also strongly supports press shield legislation.

H.R. 985 has been carefully tailored through the legislative process and represents a well-considered, bipartisan, consensus approach. The bill was significantly revised and amended during the proceedings of the last Congress to address concerns of Members and the Executive Branch that it strike a more sensitive balance in the areas of terrorism, national security, and other critical areas. These changes and revisions markedly strengthened the bill, and it passed the House by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 398 to 21.

This legislation has the strong support of members on both sides of the aisle. It is also supported by more than 100 editorial boards, and a diverse group of over 50 media companies and organizations, including the Newspaper Association of America, the Associated Press, the National Association of Broadcasters, News Corp., as well as CNN and all the broadcast networks. This broad and bipartisan support only underscores the importance of this measure.

Even a bill with such strong support is still open to improvement, however, and I would like to identify one aspect of the revisions introduced during the last Congress that may have some unwelcome and unintended consequences. At that time, we appropriately revised the definition of a "covered person" to include the requirement that the person be "regularly" engaged in journalism. That limitation ensures that a person cannot claim the protections of the Act by simply putting up a Web site and claiming to be a reporter after receiving a Federal subpoena.

At the same time, however, we also added a requirement that, to be covered by the Act, a person must earn a "substantial portion of the person's livelihood" or "substantial financial gain" from reporting activities. I appreciate the effort to strike a careful balance reflected in this change, but I have some concern that, as media evolves and online reporting and citizen journalism become more and more prominent, this definition may deny credible, responsible reporters and commentators the protection of the Act, which I do not believe is Congress's intent.

Furthermore, in an era of mass layoffs in the news business, some displaced journalists may elect to continue their reporting on a part-time or freelance basis, or may simply carry on their work in the public interest on their own time even if they obtain other employ-

ment outside the professional press. To my mind, such persons should retain the protection of the Act, but the language may be ambiguous in this type of situation.

Finally, while I appreciate that the current definition of "covered person" will cover many responsible, established bloggers, more and more good and significant reporting is being done by small, local blogs or by true volunteers who engage in journalism on their own time, but do so with credibility, professionalism, and integrity. Not all bloggers meet these standards, of course, but many do, and I would hope they will be entitled to the protections of the Act in its final form. Indeed, given the sensationalistic quality of a good deal of modern professional "journalism," it strikes me as somewhat arbitrary to exclude serious political reporters and commentators from coverage simply because of the technology they use or the price they charge.

I note that the Senate version of this legislation uses a more functional test to define a "covered person," focusing on the nature and regularity of the person's activities rather than the financial compensation that they earn. Such an approach appears to strike a thoughtful balance between covering people who have earned the right to be considered journalists, but denying coverage in situations where it is more likely to be inappropriate or exploited. I am hopeful that as this bill continues through the legislative process, we will look closely at the Senate language and consider adopting it into the final law.

I would like to commend my Judiciary Committee colleague RICK BOUCHER of Virginia, the lead sponsor of this bill, for his tireless work on this issue.

I would also like to recognize MIKE PENCE of Indiana and BOB GOODLATTE of Virginia for their efforts in strengthening the bill and ensuring that we could bring a truly bipartisan measure to the House.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. This bipartisan legislation would grant the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) long-needed authority to regulate the manufacture, sale, distribution and marketing of tobacco products.

As we all know, tobacco related diseases contribute to the death of 400,000 Americans and costs the nation's health care system nearly \$100 billion each year. The most tragic part of this statistic is that virtually all of these deaths are preventable. It is alarming that preventable diseases such as emphysema, heart disease and cancer all can be attributed to the use of tobacco. We must do everything we can to end preventable suffering and death due to tobacco use. And as we look towards significant, comprehensive health reform legislation, this bill is critically important to achieving our goal of a healthier nation.

The FDA has the scientific expertise and regulatory experience to understand complex tobacco products, stipulate changes and address how these changes interact with the marketing that impacts consumer behavior. The FDA is the best agency to regulate tobacco products because it is regularly engaged in evaluating the scientific and technical evidence related to the safety or lack thereof of consumer products, as well as examining issues related to access, marketing and claims made about these products.

Continuing to allow tobacco manufacturers to escape any sort of regulation when food, drug, device and other manufacturers are subject to oversight is unacceptable. Congress cannot leave tobacco products, the number one preventable cause of death, unregulated. Tobacco companies should not remain free to manipulate their products by secretly increasing nicotine levels or adding candy flavorings to entice children. We need to do what we can to reduce the harm of tobacco products and FDA is the only agency with the level of expertise required to take on this task.

Colleagues, we can all agree that the FDA faces significant challenges, is in desperate need of new, effective leadership and a commitment from this Congress to implement the necessary changes. H.R. 1256 is not in conflict with those changes. The legislation creates a new, separate center for tobacco product regulation within FDA and establishes user fees—paid for by the manufacturers and importers of the tobacco products regulated by FDA—to fully fund the agency's new work relating to tobacco products. None of the positions or funding for the new Center for Tobacco Regulation will be taken from existing FDA resources. I am pleased that the bill before us includes language that maintains the same role of the Appropriations Committee with regard to the fees in this bill that the Committee has with regard to other FDA user fees. Providing the FDA with authority over tobacco products is completely consistent with FDA's core mission to protect the public health.

This bill has strong bipartisan support, and is endorsed by key groups including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the American Medical Association and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and more than 1000 other health, medical, consumer, community and faith groups.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 154, I would ask that the RECORD reflect that I am in favor of H. Res. 273, Recognizing the 188th anniversary of the Independence of Greece and Celebrating Greek and American Democracy. I was present and voted in favor of the resolution, but my vote was not recorded by the electronic device. I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO THE PIKEVILLE KENTUCKY SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the staff of the Pikeville Kentucky Social Security Office for their strong, effective, and compassionate service to the people of Kentucky. Their dedication and service has earned them the prestigious Social Security's Administration's Best Level Two Office in the Atlanta Region Award.

Social Security plays an important role in the lives of more Americans than any other federal program. Whether providing a Social Security number for a newborn baby, mailing a check to a retired worker, or helping a disabled individual receive benefits, the Social Security Administration touches the lives of everyone.

The field office in Pikeville, Kentucky, is a shining example for this extensive federal agency. The Pikeville staff consistently goes beyond the call of duty to provide valuable benefits to the people of Kentucky. Because of this unwavering commitment to helping others, the Social Security Administration recognized the Pikeville Office as the Best Level Two Office in the Atlanta Region. This is the highest honor a social security office can receive.

This award would not be possible if it weren't for the committed individuals who have dedicated their lives to public service. The Pikeville office is professional, courteous, and goes above and beyond in order to ensure the highest quality of service to all those who are in need of their assistance. This award is a reflection of each and every employee's exceptional performance in delivering quality public-centered service in a timely and efficient manner.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank the staff at the Pikeville Social Security Office for their hard work and dedication to serving the people of Kentucky. These fine Americans are an inspiration to us all, and I salute them for their commitment to helping others.

PRIMARY CARE DENTAL ACADEMIC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Primary Care Dental Academic Workforce Development Act of 2009.

Dental decay is the most common chronic childhood disease in the U.S. and also one of the most preventable. More than one quarter of American children between the ages of 2 and 4, half of children between ages 6 and 8, and nearly 60 percent of 15 year-old children suffer from dental decay. Despite this, schools of dentistry in the United States are experiencing difficulty in recruiting and retaining the expert faculty needed to train our nation's future dentists.

A strong dental faculty is needed to recruit and train the dental students needed to provide exceptional dental care to our nation's children. Yet, the nation is currently experiencing a shortage of pediatric dental faculty. While pediatric dentists treat only about 30 percent of children, they are responsible for training all of the dentists who treat children. A critical factor in this shortage is the staggering student loan debt and income disparity compared to private practice. The average graduating dental student loan debt was \$158,104 in 2006, yet faculty positions generally only provide a third of the income as a private practice which many would-be faculty simply cannot afford.

Addressing the pediatric faculty shortage is especially critical for ensuring that children receive appropriate dental care from an early age and is absolutely essential in determining the quality of their oral health throughout their life. Further, the tragic death of Deamonte Driver in 2007 highlights that poor oral health can have tragic health outcomes, including death. Such tragedies should be avoided at all costs in the future.

For these reasons, my colleague Representative MIKE SIMPSON and I are introducing the Primary Care Dental Academic Workforce Development Act of 2009. This legislation would expand authority under the current Title VII pediatric and general dentistry program to allow these training programs to utilize these grants funds to support loan repayment for up to \$250,000 over five years in order to recruit and retain faculty. This authority would significantly assist in recruitment and retention of pediatric dentistry faculty. Currently, pediatric dentistry programs may apply for Title VII funding to expand or enhance training programs, but not for faculty loan repayment.

Our nation's children deserve the best medical care that our nation has to offer. In order to provide this, we need to ensure we have the resources to train our health professionals. I am proud to introduce the Primary Care Dental Academic Workforce Development Act of 2009, and I urge your full consideration of this important legislation.

INTRODUCING THE TEACHER TAX CUT ACT AND THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce two pieces of legislation that raise the pay of teachers and other educators by cutting their taxes. I am sure that all my colleagues agree that it is long past time to begin treating those who have dedicated their lives to educating America's children with the respect they deserve. Compared to other professionals, educators are underappreciated and underpaid. This must change if America is to have the finest education system in the world!

Quality education is impossible without quality teaching. If we continue to undervalue educators, it will become harder to attract, and keep, good people in the education profession. While educators' pay is primarily a local issue, Congress can, and should, help raise

educators' take home pay by reducing educators' taxes.

This is why I am introducing the Teachers Tax Cut Act. This legislation provides every teacher in America with a \$3,000 tax credit. I am also introducing the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act, which extends the \$3,000 tax credit to counselors, librarians, and all school personnel involved in any aspect of the K-12 academic program.

The Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act increase the salaries of teachers and other education professionals without raising federal expenditures. By raising the take-home pay of professional educators, these bills encourage highly qualified people to enter, and remain in, education. These bills also let America's professional educators know that the American people and the Congress respect their work.

I hope all my colleagues join me in supporting our nation's teachers and other professional educators by cosponsoring the Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF EZRA "BUD" AND MARY CAROTHERS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the town of Winfield, Alabama recently lost two dear friends, and I rise today to honor Ezra Bonner "Bud" Carothers and Mary Lee Hill Carothers and pay tribute to their memory.

A native of Marion County, Bud was a resident of the Winfield area most of his life. He graduated from Sidney Lanier High School in Montgomery and attended the University of Alabama. He was in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Okinawa, Iwo Jima, Philippines, Peluloe and Saipan.

Mary was also a native of Marion County. She graduated from Winfield High School and went on to attend Fairfax Hall College in Waynesboro, Virginia, as well as the University of Alabama.

Loved by their family, respected by the entire community, Bud and Mary are perhaps best known for the Winfield Quick Freeze, a meat processing facility in Winfield that the couple owned and operated for almost four decades. They were also both active members of Winfield First United Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering two dedicated community leaders known to many throughout northwest Alabama.

Ezra Bonner "Bud" Carothers and Mary Lee Hill Carothers will be dearly missed by their family—their sons, William Russell Carothers II and his wife Becky, and Robert Leroy "Bubba" Carothers and his wife Rebecca; their eight grandchildren, Melissa Carothers Beard, William Russell Carothers III, Christian Hill Carothers, Robert Leroy Carothers Jr., Brooks Reed Carothers, Ryan Lee Carothers, Julia Gardner, and Amanda Gardner; their eight great-grandchildren, Mary Kate Beard, Spencer Beard, Will Carothers, John Carothers, Nicholas Carothers, Elizabeth Carothers, Allie Carothers, and Caroline Carothers; and nieces and nephews—as well as the countless friends they have left behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING DOCTOR RICHARD STRANGE AND HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MUSICAL COMMUNITY

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard E. Strange, who is completing his 34th year with the Tempe Symphony Orchestra.

Before beginning his professional career, he earned his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Performance from Boston University, and also holds degrees from Wichita University, and the University of Colorado. He then went on to teach music classes to elementary and high school students before being drafted to serve in the Korean War. As a former teacher myself, I commend Dr. Strange's commitment to emphasizing music education as an essential component of the learning process. And as a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I honor Dr. Strange's service to our country and his continued commitment to our nation's service members both past and present.

Richard is also well known in the band and orchestra community. For many years, he served as the guest conductor for multiple popular symphonies, such as the Texas Wind Symphony and the Carnegie Civic Symphony. Dr. Strange also devoted much time to directing prominent bands for the U.S. Marine Corps., U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, and U.S. Coast Guard.

In addition to holding music clinics all over the world, Dr. Strange has received a myriad of awards honoring his significant contributions to the musical community. His efforts have certainly had a profound impact on me as well as musicians and audiences around the world.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dr. Richard Strange for not only his 34 years with the Tempe Symphony Orchestra, but also for his commitment to our veterans and for the tremendous success of his entire musical career.

HONORING MR. ELMER DUCKINFELD

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Exton resident Elmer Duckinfield, whose tremendous volunteer spirit and constant compassion have earned him the 2009 Safe Harbor Andrew Dinniman Humanitarian Award.

Elmer first served his country in the Army and Navy and has not stopped looking out for others since that time. He is a founding volunteer and a former Board Member at Safe Harbor, which is a nonprofit shelter serving single homeless men and women in the West Chester area.

Safe Harbor is not the only nonprofit agency benefitting from Elmer's genuine charity, humility and drive to make the world a kinder place for everyone. He has eagerly helped more than 70 nonprofit agencies in southeastern Pennsylvania during the last year, logging more than 15,000 miles in his car and contributing countless hours.

Whether it is collecting bread and pastries for St. Agnes Parish, safely driving pregnant homeless women to emergency shelters or tracking down donations to replace an industrial dishwasher at Safe Harbor, Elmer always stands ready to help anyone in need.

Elmer will receive his much-deserved humanitarian award during the Safe Harbor Gala on Saturday, April 18 in the Atrium of QVC.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Elmer Duckinfield for his exemplary service and never-ending desire to improve the lives of others and the quality of life in his community through outstanding acts of kindness.

HONORING TENNESSEE'S NURSES DURING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK, MAY 6-12, 2009

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor all nurses nationwide and to celebrate National Nurses Week, which begins on May 6, 2009. The week long commemoration honors all nurses, and ends on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday.

This year's theme, "Nurses: Building a Healthy America," addresses the important role nurses have in our society. Research has shown that when there are more registered nurses working in health care facilities, there are lower mortality rates, shorter lengths of stay, fewer complications, and lower costs.

As a member of the Congressional Nursing Caucus, I have consistently supported legislation protecting nurses' rights and funding increases for nursing education. There is much work, however, that still needs to be done.

Currently, there is a national nurse shortage. By the year 2020, it is predicted Tennessee alone will have a shortage of 9,495 registered nurses. I hope that National Nurses Week will mark the beginning of a trend in the recruitment and retention of nurses throughout our country.

Undoubtedly, we have all been positively affected by nurses at some point in our lives. Whether they have cared for a family member, a friend, or a loved one, we can all be grateful for their hard work and service to our communities.

I want to use this opportunity to thank nurses in Tennessee and across the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, during the consideration of H.R. 1664, Pay for Per-

formance Act, I inadvertently voted "aye" on the Bean Amendment (rollcall vote 180). I had intended to vote "nay," and want the record to reflect that I share Chairman FRANK's concerns that this amendment, which would exempt recipients of TARP capital investments from the bill's requirements while taxpayer funds were still outstanding, is contrary to the intent of the bill.

IN HONOR OF DALE SKILLICORN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dale Skillicorn of Watsonville, California. Dale passed away on March 14, 2009 at the age of seventy-one, leaving behind a city better for his efforts. He was an extraordinary community leader who served as the city of Watsonville's Mayor Pro Tempore and had served as a city councilmember, representing the city's 7th District, since 2002.

Dale was born on April 4, 1937 in Watsonville, California. He graduated from Watsonville High School then attended Monterey Peninsula College and San Francisco State University. Dale spent more than twenty years in public service positions. He served on the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission for fourteen years, and then spent five years as Santa Cruz County Parks Commissioner. In 2002, Dale was elected to represent Watsonville's District 7 on the city council. He was reelected in 2006 and in 2008 was selected as the Mayor Pro Tempore by his peers on the city council. Dale brought a wealth of knowledge and a unique perspective to the city council.

Dale Skillicorn's public service career will be remembered for his dedication to green job creation and advocacy for the Pajaro Valley's agriculture industry. He played a key role in bringing the Alternative Construction and Energy Expo to the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. In addition, many residents in Watsonville will remember Dale through his work as a volunteer in many organizations located in the Pajaro Valley.

Madam Speaker, Dale Skillicorn touched the hearts of everyone he came into contact with, was a pillar to the city of Watsonville. He lived his life as an active member of the community, who was driven by compassion to help others. I am certain I speak for the entire House in extending our heartfelt sympathy to Dale's wife of 29 years, Jan Skillicorn; his son, Mark Skillicorn; and his two stepdaughters, Valerie Justus-Rusconi and Christina Justus-Garcia.

HONORING ROBERT FAY ROCKWELL, JR.

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Fay Rockwell Jr. Bob Rockwell was born November 8th, 1911 in Bradford, PA. He attended Whittier College in California where he became friends with fellow

student, Richard M. Nixon. He moved to Corning, NY in 1933 to run the local department store (The Rockwell Company) owned by his grandfather. Soon after, he departed to serve in the 70th Construction Battalion (the Seabees) in World War II. He was stationed in North Africa and Oakland, CA.

Upon his return to Corning, he became close friends with Frederick Carder, founder of world-famous Steuben Glass. Later he amassed the world's largest collection of Frederick Carder Steuben Glass. His liking of aesthetics wasn't limited to glass art; Bob started collecting Western Art including Remingtons and Russells in the early 1960's for display in his department store. He donated most of these two collections to what was then called The Rockwell Museum. This museum got its first home in 1976 in an old hotel in downtown Corning. During this time, he became president of both the Corning Chamber of Commerce and the Corning Rotary Club. In 1983 the Rockwell Museum of Western Art opened in Corning's refurbished old city hall building and has been popular with the great numbers of tourists who visit the area. The multimillion dollar value of Bob's donated art and glass is a testament to his generosity, but his legacy is further enhanced by his compassion and help to his fellow man.

HONORING REVEREND A.D. KING

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend A.D. King and to recognize his many contributions on behalf of social justice and peace around the world.

Alfred Daniel Williams King was born July 30, 1930, in Atlanta, Georgia, the youngest of the three children of Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., and Alberta Williams King. Reverend King shared his family's passion for the ministry and social justice. He graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1959. That same year, he also became pastor of the Mount Vernon First Baptist Church in Newnan, Georgia.

The book of Proverbs says, "Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy." Reverend King lived his life according to this maxim. He believed that war was never the solution and that non-violent means will always overcome.

Whether it was participating in a lunch counter sit-in, strategizing the March on Selma, or organizing the demonstrations that would ultimately lead to the passage of the Civil Rights Act, Reverend King was there, active, engaged, and defending the rights of the afflicted and needy.

Like his brother Martin, Reverend A.D. King passed from this life at the much too young age of 39. His life wasn't full of years, but his years were full of life.

As we recognize the 40th anniversary of Reverend A.D. King's passing this July 21st, I hope that we can all learn from his example of righteousness and citizenship, and shape a better future for ourselves and our posterity, as he did for us.

Reverend King was survived by his wife, Naomi Barbara King, and his five children.

Today I honor Reverend A.D. King, and the entire King family, for their contributions and service to America. Their example gives us all a lasting reminder of what can be achieved when we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

HONORING MR. WILLIE BRANDON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Willie Brandon, who will celebrate his 103rd birthday on June 12, 2009.

As a young boy, Willie and his sister Lizzie grew up in Readyville, Tennessee. His parents, Charles and Jimmie Brandon, were sharecroppers. At the age of 12, his father moved the family to Illinois where he worked as a janitor. To help his father support the family, Willie dropped out of school to work.

Willie credits his long life to the fact he's never quit working. For many years, he worked as a cook at the James K. Polk Hotel, City Café, Smyrna Air Force Base, Lamb's Grill, and Po Folks. He also picked and sold blackberries, cut and sold timber, and cut grass.

Willie is now the keeper of the Rutherford County courthouse, a historical place many people pass through, whether for business or to sightsee. He is the caretaker of the same steps on which, more than 150 years ago, his grandfather Jim Brewer was sold as a slave and sent to Virginia.

Willie has a daughter, Anne, and one of his proudest achievements is that she earned a college degree. Willie also has a stepson, three granddaughters, two great-granddaughters and one great-great granddaughter.

Willie's service to his community throughout his life is truly admirable. Willie, you're a great man and you have given us all someone to look up to.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR CHARLES LONG, BOONEVILLE, KENTUCKY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the Bluegrass State's most impressive politicians and the longest serving Mayor in the great Commonwealth of Kentucky, Mayor of Booneville, Mr. Charles Long.

Since being elected to the office of Mayor 50 years ago, Mayor Long has set a high standard for public service and politics in Booneville. As a politician, Mayor Long has accomplished a rare political success by having never been contested in an election. The people of Booneville, Kentucky have stood behind Mayor Long and threw their support behind him for 50 consecutive years.

Understanding his legacy of public service provides insight to his longstanding political success. Mayor Long serves the county seat of the third poorest county in the United States

but despite the obstacles created by poverty, Mayor Long has brought an insurmountable measure of hope to Owsley County through city water and sewer projects. One hundred percent of the city of Booneville is served by city water, as well as 98 percent of the county. Upon completion of an ongoing sewer project, half of Owsley County will also have sewer service.

Mayor Long understands the necessities of the constituents he represents. Everyday modern privileges, like water and sewer, that are so often taken for granted, are a desired commodity for people in the most rural parts of our Nation. Through hard work and determination Mayor Long has been able to meet the needs of Booneville and bring city water and sewer to an area of the country that had waited a long time for this benefit.

In addition to his success in public service, Mayor Long is also celebrating 70 years of marriage to his lovely wife, Ruth. They have raised two children and their family continues to grow with grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mayor Long is an honest and caring family man whose work ethic is unmatched—in 50 years he still hasn't missed a day in City Hall.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a dedicated public servant in my home state of Kentucky, Booneville Mayor Charles Long. We should all strive to be as dedicated to the people we serve, as Mayor Long has been for more than five decades. I congratulate Mayor Long on his tenure in office, his 70th wedding anniversary and wish him all the best in the years to come.

CHINESE DEFECTOR CONFIRMS SYSTEMATIC GOVERNMENT REPRESSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the following article which appeared in the March 19 edition of The Washington Times. Li Fengzhi, a former intelligence officer at the Ministry of State Security, revealed that the agency is tasked with repressing religious and political dissent among the Chinese civilian population and bolstering the rule of the Chinese Communist Party in addition to gathering secrets from overseas. I urge my colleagues to carefully read Mr. Li's chilling account of the Communist Party's systematic repression of religious and political dissidents.

[From the Washington Times, Mar. 19, 2009]

CHINESE SPY WHO DEFECTED TELLS ALL

(By Bill Gertz Contact)

A veteran Chinese intelligence officer who defected to the United States says that his country's civilian spy service spends most of its time trying to steal secrets overseas but also works to bolster Beijing's Communist Party rule by repressing religious and political dissent internally.

"In some sense you can say that intelligence work between two countries is just like war but without the fire," Li Fengzhi told The Washington Times in an interview aided by an interpreter.

Mr. Li worked for years as a Ministry of State Security intelligence officer inside

China before defecting to the United States, where he is awaiting a response to his request for political asylum. He gave a rare, detailed interview to *The Times* on Sunday regarding the activities of the MSS, China's Communist-controlled civilian spy agency.

His prior work as a Chinese spy was confirmed to *The Times* by a Western government source familiar with his defection. The source spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of Mr. Li's case.

Mr. Li told *The Times* that the MSS focuses on both counterintelligence—working against foreign intelligence agencies—and the collection of secrets and technology.

The MSS, however, is unique from other nations' intelligence services in that it is patterned after the former Soviet Union's KGB political police. Its most important mission is "to control the Chinese people to maintain the rule of the Communist Party," he added.

Wang Baodong, a spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, did not address Mr. Li's comments directly but repeated past Chinese government statements regarding its intelligence activities.

"Allegations of China conducting spying activities against the United States are groundless and unwarranted," he said Wednesday. "China never engages itself in activities that will harm other countries' national interests."

Mr. Wang said communist rule in China produced historic economic and social progress and that China has contributed to a more secure world. "This is a fact no one can deny," Mr. Wang said.

On those who leave the party, Mr. Wang said "there are also a handful of people who betray their faith and leave the party, whose acts as well as some people's political lies will never shadow the great feats of the party."

Mr. Li said he left China's intelligence services to protest the agency's role in government repression of political dissidents and religious groups that are outside of the ruling communist system.

The MSS, mainly a foreign intelligence service, is "deeply" involved in domestic repression of nonofficial Christian churches and the outlawed Falun Gong religious group, Mr. Li said.

"The Ministry of State Security is actually not doing things for the security of the country, but rather they spend a lot of effort to control the people, the dissidents, the lower-class Chinese people, and make these people suffer and also make their life miserable," he said.

In the interview, he also said:

China's spy agency is focused on sending spies to infiltrate the U.S. intelligence community, and also on collecting secrets and technology from the United States. "China spends a tremendous effort to send out spies to important countries like the U.S. to collect information," Mr. Li said.

China is censoring the Internet to prevent the population from knowing about what occurs outside the country.

An internal MSS manual that is kept secret from most officers outlines the primary role of the service as the promotion of Communist Party's interests.

Ongoing cooperation between the CIA and FBI and the MSS in countering international terrorism can be constructive, but U.S. agencies need to be cautious because the MSS is mainly an organ of the Chinese Communist Party, and does not directly serve the interests of the Chinese nation or people, he said.

Mr. Li said he worked in the MSS department in charge of gathering economic, political and technical information in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Some of the work involved targeting and recruiting foreign nationals who visit China.

He was born in 1968 in northern China and was first recruited into a provincial Chinese intelligence service before being promoted to the MSS in Beijing after several years.

Two groups in China that are a main focus of the MSS are unofficial Christian churches and the outlawed Falun Gong religious group, he said.

The MSS also has targeted pro-democracy activists, like those who were involved in the mass demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, he said.

The MSS is China's main civilian spy service that is viewed by U.S. intelligence officials as one of the world's most active in stealing secrets and running foreign spies. The military counterpart, the Second Department of the People's Liberation Army, or 2PLA, is focused on stealing foreign technology, much of it for weapons and military systems.

Together, the Chinese services are estimated to have several thousand trained operatives working around the world, most posing as diplomats, journalists, business representatives and academics. Thousands of other Chinese nationals also function as semiprofessional information gatherers.

Former FBI Special Agent I.C. Smith, a specialist in Chinese counterintelligence, confirmed that the MSS focuses its activities on penetrating U.S. intelligence and government agencies.

"The goal of every intelligence agency is to get someone inside, and in the case of Chinese, they use not just intelligence people but academics and everybody else," Mr. Smith said in an interview.

Mr. Li said his access to information that was banned for the general public helped him to turn against the system, including internal reports on party ideology and information on American values of freedom and democracy.

Mr. Li said that as a doctoral candidate, the MSS sent him to study at an American university, an experience that influenced in his decision to defect. In 2004, after he defected, he was declared an enemy of the state by the MSS in at least two notices sent to security offices in China.

According to U.S. counterintelligence officials, China, unlike the Soviet Union, has had only a small number of defections of intelligence officers like Mr. Li over the past 30 years.

Another spy who defected was a Chinese intelligence officer known publicly by the code-name "Planesman," who gave the FBI data that led to 1985 arrest of CIA interpreter Larry Wu-Tai Chin.

Another intelligence defector was Sr. Col. Yu Jungping, a military intelligence officer once posted to the Chinese Embassy in Washington who came over in the 1990s.

Mr. Li was in Washington to participate in a conference sponsored by the Falun Gong, a Buddhist-oriented group that advocates the replacement of the Chinese communist government. Mr. Li said he announced his formal withdrawal from the Communist Party at the conference, along with that of his father, who is also in the United States.

Mr. Li said he is neither a Christian nor Falun Gong member, but that his interest in religion and fear of being persecuted by the MSS contributed to his decision to defect.

Mr. Li said he thinks there are significant numbers of pro-democracy MSS officers inside the service, including those at high levels, who do not support the party and are "even anti-Communist Party" but fear taking any action.

"But I sincerely hope these people can play a special role in getting rid of the Communist Party," Mr. Li said.

The former intelligence officer, whose family left China with him, said it took him sev-

eral years to change his views. "After a few years of my personal experience inside the system, I really knew that the Communist Party is very bad," he said.

"My true ideal, actually, in this Chinese security department is really to do something for the Chinese people and the nation. But I really hated doing things just for the interest of the Communist Party and a lot of times those things that are in the interest of the Communist Party are doing harm to the Chinese people."

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH EVELYN WRIGHT, FOUNDER OF VOORHEES COLLEGE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elizabeth Evelyn Wright, a visionary educator and an unsung American hero. Ms. Wright founded Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina in 1897, a remarkable accomplishment for a 25-year-old African American woman during the post-Reconstruction era. Her tremendous legacy will be honored by Voorhees College on April 7, 2009 as the campus commemorates and Founders' Day and celebrates the extraordinary contributions of this amazing young woman.

When Elizabeth Evelyn Wright was born on April 3, 1872 the seventh child of John and Virginia Wright in a poverty-stricken black community in Talbotton, Georgia, it would have been hard for anyone to believe she was destined for great things. Yet her academic talents were clear as she worked on the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic in the basement of St. Phillips AME Church. Her instructors urged and encouraged her to further her education, and despite significant financial challenges, she enrolled at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1888.

While at Tuskegee, Elizabeth worked in the cafeteria to pay for her tuition, and she caught the attention of its principal Booker T. Washington and his wife Olivia. They became her mentors and encouraged her to dedicate herself to the education of young African Americans as they had.

Elizabeth was forced to drop out of Tuskegee in her senior year due to illness. However, she was summoned by Mrs. Almira Steele, a white trustee at Tuskegee, and asked to teach at a school in McNeill, South Carolina. Elizabeth accepted, and in 1892, she began teaching in the Hampton County School. She spent only six months there before arson fueled by bigotry burned the school to the ground.

In 1893, Elizabeth returned to Tuskegee and completed her degree. Still committed to her mission in McNeill, she returned and opened another school for the black children in the area. Two more times, arson destroyed any hope of the school's success, but Elizabeth didn't let that destroy her dream. She encouraged the school's other teachers to join her in opening another school in Denmark.

As it was with her educational pursuits, finances were the primary obstacle for getting the school started. Undeterred Elizabeth began visiting churches to collect donations

for the new school. In a fortunate turn of events in 1897, she met Mrs. Sontag, the white owner of a two-story general store in Denmark who gave Elizabeth permission to house her school on the store's vacant second floor. On April 14, 1897, the Denmark Industrial School opened its doors to 14 students.

In one year the enrollment swelled to 270, and Elizabeth's mentors, the Washingtons, sent Martin Menafee, a Tuskegee graduate, to Denmark to help her raise money for a more permanent school. He was able to arrange a meeting with blind-philanthropist, Ralph Voorhees of Clinton, New Jersey. He and his wife Elizabeth became the primary benefactors of the school and enabled it to purchase land for a new structure on the outskirts of Denmark. To honor their generous contributions, the school was renamed Voorhees Industrial School, and in 1904, the South Carolina State Legislature voted to incorporate it.

The following year, Elizabeth Wright and her financial officer, Martin Menafee, married on the campus of their beloved school. But their life together was cut short when Elizabeth again became gravely ill. She went to a hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan to receive treatment from two of the country's best physicians—Dr. Jean Harris Whitney and one of the Kellogg brothers, Dr. John Kellogg. Despite their best efforts, Elizabeth died on December 14, 1906 at the age of 34.

Elizabeth Wright Menafee believed her mission in life was "to try and help my fellow man to help themselves and if a way was not open for them, I must open it myself." President Cleveland Sellers, his faculty and staff, and the students and alumni of Voorhees are to be commended for celebrating the life and sharing the story of Elizabeth Wright. Hers is an example for others to follow.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in applauding the tremendous legacy of Elizabeth Wright-Menafee. Her life is a testament to President Lincoln's declaration that "it's not the years in your life that count; it's the life in your years." The accomplishments of this extraordinary woman, within such a short life are truly inspirational.

HONORING GEORGE R. BARBOSA, JR.

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize George R. Barbosa, Jr. for his determination to strive for the best by winning 4th place in the State Wrestling Tournament on behalf of Klein High School.

Mr. Barbosa has shown through his hard work that anything is possible if one has the passion and determination to do so. Winning 4th place in the State Wrestling Tournament on Klein High School's behalf has made him the possessor of the best finish ever by a Klein High School male wrestler. Mr. Barbosa will continue his pursuit for greatness as he has now qualified for the National High School Wrestling Tournament.

I extend my highest regard for Mr. George R. Barbosa, Jr., a student who has chosen to become a role model for not only his sport,

but also for his school. On behalf of Klein High School and the City of Houston I send my congratulations.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION & TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1256, The Family Smoking Prevention & Tobacco Control Act. As an original sponsor of the legislation, I want to thank Chairman WAXMAN and Chairman TOWNS for their leadership, and for helping to bring this important piece of legislation to the floor. The bill grants the FDA authority to regulate tobacco products and authorizes the agency to restrict the advertising, promotion and sale of tobacco.

I want to also thank Ms. Sandra Landis for her efforts to bring to my attention a long standing problem that has affected a small number of federal employees since 1990. Due in part to her persistent dedication, I was able to successfully amend this bill and address that issue.

HONORING MTSU'S COACH DEAN HAYES

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dean Hayes, Head Coach of the Middle Tennessee State University Men's and Women's Track teams. On March 26, the Tennessee Board of Regents approved MTSU's request to name the University's state-of-the-art track and soccer stadium after Coach Dean Hayes—a timely accolade as the Blue Raiders are set to host the Sun Belt Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships this year from May 8–10.

Recently, Coach Hayes was inducted into the 2008 Class of the U.S. Track & Field Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame in Phoenix, Arizona. This is Coach Hayes' fifth hall of fame induction—he has been inducted into the Blue Raider Hall of Fame (1982), Illinois Sports Hall of Fame (1993), Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame (1994), and the Mason-Dixon Athletic Club Hall of Fame (2005).

Coach Hayes is in his 44th year at MTSU. He is credited with opening MTSU's track & field to minorities and welcoming the University's first international student-athletes. Coach Hayes has led Middle Tennessee to 29 Ohio Valley Conference titles, 14 Sun Belt Conference Championships and 18 NCAA Top 25 finishes.

He has won 15 OVC Coach of the Year and 12 SBC Coach of the Year awards, and he was named NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Coach of the Year in 1981. In 1977 and 1981, Coach Hayes was named NCAA District Coach of the Year. He also served as the President of NCAA Division I Track and Field Coaches from 1981–83.

The athletes under his care have gone on to compete in the Olympic Games, World University Games and Pan-American Games; 44 of 84 have won All-American honors; and four have become national champions.

Congratulations, Coach Hayes, on your latest success. I wish you many more. I'm glad Middle Tennessee was able to steal you away from your alma mater, Lake Forest College. Your leadership and dedication to MTSU is truly admirable.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PING

HON. JOHN. B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. SHADEGG. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize today the 50th Anniversary of PING, a company that has become a legend for its contributions to the beloved game of golf.

It was on March 23rd in 1959 that Karsten Solheim, PING's founder, applied for a patent on the 1-A putter that made the famous "ping" sound heard round the world. Not long after that, PING opened their headquarters in Phoenix—where they have proudly stayed for many years.

Their Phoenix facility both manufactures and assembles PING golf clubs and over the years has provided countless jobs for Arizonans. Karsten and his wife Louise have always been mainstays of our community, as widely respected as the clubs they produce. Though Karsten sadly left us nine years ago, his legacy lives on and his story is a credit to our community and a testament to the drive and creativity of the American entrepreneur.

I congratulate PING and all its employees on this most auspicious occasion and wish them another 50 years of great success.

FAMILY EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Family Education Freedom Act, a bill to empower millions of working and middle-class Americans to choose a non-public education for their children, as well as making it easier for parents to actively participate in improving public schools. The Family Education Freedom Act accomplishes its goals by allowing American parents a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for the expenses incurred in sending their child to private, public, parochial, other religious school, or for home schooling their children.

The Family Education Freedom Act returns the fundamental principal of a truly free economy to America's education system: what the great economist Ludwig von Mises called "consumer sovereignty". Consumer sovereignty simply means consumers decide who succeeds or fails in the market. Businesses that best satisfy consumer demand will be the most successful. Consumer sovereignty is the

means by which the free market maximizes human happiness.

Currently, consumers are less than sovereign in the education "market." Funding decisions are increasingly controlled by the federal government. Because "he who pays the piper calls the tune," public, and even private schools, are paying greater attention to the dictates of federal "educrats" while ignoring the wishes of the parents to an ever-greater degree. As such, the lack of consumer sovereignty in education is destroying parental control of education and replacing it with state control. Loss of control is a key reason why so many of America's parents express dissatisfaction with the educational system.

According to a survey conducted by Education Next/Harvard PEPG, the majority of Americans support education tax credits. This poll also found strong support for education tax credits among liberals, moderates, conservatives, low-income individuals, African-Americans, and public-school employees. This is just one of numerous studies and public opinion polls showing that Americans want Congress to get the federal bureaucracy out of the schoolroom and give parents more control over their children's education.

Today, Congress can fulfill the wishes of the American people for greater control over their children's education by simply allowing parents to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend on education rather than force them to send it to Washington to support education programs reflective only of the values and priorities of Congress and the federal bureaucracy.

The \$5,000 tax credit will make a better education affordable for millions of parents. Madame Speaker, many parents who would choose to send their children to private, religious, or parochial schools are unable to afford the tuition, in large part because of the enormous tax burden imposed on the American family by Washington.

The Family Education Freedom Act also benefits parents who choose to send their children to public schools. Parents of children in public schools may use this credit to help improve their local schools by helping finance the purchase of educational tools such as computers or to ensure their local schools can offer enriching extracurricular activities such as music programs. Parents of public school students may also wish to use the credit to pay for special services, such as tutoring, for their children.

Increasing parental control of education is superior to funneling more federal tax dollars, followed by greater federal control, into the schools. A recent review of the relevant research conducted by Andrew J. Coulson of the CATO Institute shows that increasing parental controls increases academic achievement, efficiency, the orderliness of the classrooms, and the quality of school facilities. Not surprisingly, graduates of education system controlled by parents tend to achieve higher levels of education and earn more than their counterparts in bureaucratically controlled education systems.

Clearly, enactment of the Family Education Freedom Act is the best thing this Congress could do to improve public education. Furthermore, a greater reliance on parental expenditures rather than government tax dollars will help make the public schools into true community schools that reflect the wishes of parents and the interests of the students.

The Family Education Freedom Act will also aid those parents who choose to educate their children at home. Home schooling has become an increasingly popular, and successful, method of educating children. Home schooled children out-perform their public school peers by 30 to 37 percentile points across all subjects on nationally standardized achievement exams. Home schooling parents spend thousands of dollars annually, in addition to the wages forgone by the spouse who forgoes outside employment, in order to educate their children in the loving environment of the home.

Ultimately, Madam Speaker, this bill is about freedom. Parental control of child rearing, especially education, is one of the bulwarks of liberty. No Nation can remain free when the State has greater influence over the knowledge and values transmitted to children than the family.

By moving to restore the primacy of parents to education, the Family Education Freedom Act will not only improve America's education, it will restore a parent's right to choose how best to educate one's own child, a fundamental freedom that has been eroded by the increase in federal education expenditures and the corresponding decrease in the ability of parents to provide for their children's education out of their own pockets. I call on all my colleagues to join me in allowing parents to devote more of their resources to their children's education and less to feed the wasteful Washington bureaucracy by supporting the Family Education Freedom Act.

FREE LIU XIAOBO

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to the following letter written by Liu Xia, the wife of imprisoned Chinese human rights activist Liu Xiaobo. Liu Xiaobo is the leader of the Charter '08 movement which calls on the Chinese government to implement democratic reforms. His courageous leadership caused the Chinese security forces to take Mr. Liu from his home in Beijing on December 8, 2008. I call on my colleagues in the Congress and the Administration to advocate for the immediate and unconditional release of Liu Xiaobo.

APRIL 1, 2009.

HON. FRANK WOLF,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF, Please forgive me for writing to you directly, but it is only out of the most desperate of circumstances that I do so.

As you may already know, my husband, Liu Xiaobo, was taken from our home by Chinese police on December 8th, 2008 after he and more than three hundred other Chinese citizens signed Charter 08, a manifesto modeled after the Czechoslovakian Charter 77 that appeals for comprehensive democracy and human rights in China. Xiaobo is a writer who cares for nothing more than his duty as an intellectual to speak out for the disadvantaged in society. Now, however, he cannot even protect his own rights.

One hundred fourteen days have now passed since my husband's disappearance. On

two occasions (01/01/2009 and 03/20/2009) police took me to an undisclosed location where I was permitted to meet with him and share a meal together. During our conversations, which were closely monitored, my husband told me that he has been kept in solitary confinement in a closed room measuring approximately ten square meters in size. A single light bulb is his only source of light. And of the more than 60 books I had brought him, he received only a few, the rest having been confiscated by the prison officials.

In the three to four months that have passed since his abduction (I can find no other suitable words to describe his situation, as no arrest warrant or other official documents were presented to justify his detention), nearly all of the other 300 signatories have been summoned and investigated by the police. It is obvious to me that the authorities are attempting to gather evidence of my husband's "crime," which will most likely be designated as "inciting the subversion of state power." I fear that the government wants to carry out a sham trial and hand down a severe sentence to my husband.

This is the fourth time that my husband has been dragged away from our home in front of my eyes. When my husband was released from prison in 1990, after serving half a year in prison for his participation in the 1989, pro-democracy demonstrations at Tiananmen Square, he apologized to me because he had decided during that time that he never wants to have children. As he explained, "I want to continue working as a writer. You may lose me again, but I do not want see a child lose its father." Nor do I. His words came true in 1996 when he disappeared behind bars for three more years, owing to writings of his that promoted freedom and democracy. Now, I am alone once again. I continue writing letters to him, knowing that he will never receive them, just as the letters he has sent me in the past hundred or so days have never reached my hands.

I plead with you to help my husband in regaining his freedom. He has done nothing but to give voice to the thoughts and wishes that are shared by many in my country. I will be forever in your debt if you can provide him with any assistance.

Sincerely yours,

LIU XIA.

INDUSTRIAL HEMP FARMING ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Industrial Hemp Farming Act. The Industrial Hemp Farming Act requires the Federal Government to respect State laws allowing the growing of industrial hemp.

Eight States—Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Montana, North Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia—allow industrial hemp production or research in accord with State laws. However, Federal law is standing in the way of farmers in these States growing what may be a very profitable crop. Because of current Federal law, all hemp included in products sold in the United States must be imported instead of being grown by American farmers.

Since 1970, the Federal Controlled Substances Act's inclusion of industrial hemp in the schedule one definition of marijuana has prohibited American farmers from growing industrial hemp despite the fact that industrial

hemp has such a low content of THC (the psychoactive chemical in the related marijuana plant) that nobody can be psychologically affected by consuming hemp. Federal law concedes the safety of industrial hemp by allowing it to be legally imported for use as food.

The United States is the only industrialized nation that prohibits industrial hemp cultivation. The Congressional Research Service has noted that hemp is grown as an established agricultural commodity in over 30 nations in Europe, Asia, North America, and South America. The Industrial Hemp Farming Act will relieve this unique restriction on American farmers and allow them to grow industrial hemp in accord with State law.

Industrial hemp is a crop that was grown legally throughout the United States for most of our Nation's history. In fact, during World War II, the Federal Government actively encouraged American farmers to grow industrial hemp to help the war effort. The Department of Agriculture even produced a film "Hemp for Victory" encouraging the plant's cultivation.

In recent years, the hemp plant has been put to many popular uses in foods and in industry. Grocery stores sell hemp seeds and oil as well as food products containing oil and seeds from the hemp plant. Industrial hemp is also included in consumer products such as paper, cloths, cosmetics, and carpet. One of the more innovative recent uses of industrial hemp is in the door frames of about 1.5 million cars. Hemp has even been used in alternative automobile fuel.

It is unfortunate that the Federal Government has stood in the way of American farmers, including many who are struggling to make ends meet, competing in the global industrial hemp market. Indeed, the founders of our Nation, some of whom grew hemp, would surely find that Federal restrictions on farmers growing a safe and profitable crop on their own land are inconsistent with the constitutional guarantee of a limited, restrained Federal Government. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to stand up for American farmers and cosponsor the Industrial Hemp Farming Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABODE SERVICES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 20th anniversary of Abode Services, formerly known as Tri-City Homeless Coalition, based in Fremont, California.

Abode Services' roots lie in a coalition of Tri-City church congregations that mobilized support in the 1980s to help growing numbers of individuals and families who had no place to live. Former Fremont Councilmember Judy Zlatnik, a community activist and member of one of the congregations, remembers the day people came together at Fremont's Senior Center to develop a plan. The newly formed coalition implemented a plan to shelter people in churches on a rotating schedule, at first during the winter months only, but later, on a year round basis. In 1989, the coalition became known as the Tri-City Homeless Coalition of Fremont.

In the beginning, the coalition thought that it would serve as an emergency solution for

homeless individuals and families seeking a safe place to get out of the cold. When it soon became apparent that the need for shelter was long-term and enduring, the agency set its sights on a permanent building. They then selected a site to build Sunrise Village, one of the first shelters in the country designed and built from the ground up as a shelter for families and single adults. In August 1993, their goal materialized when the first residents moved into Sunrise Village.

Abode Services became an early adopter of Housing First, a national movement pioneered in the 1990s that addresses the most pressing and urgent needs for homeless families and individuals with a full complement of social services. Abode Services collaborates with more than 30 organizations to leverage program resources.

Abode Services now offers eleven housing programs linked to support services for homeless families and individuals. These programs provide an essential safety net for approximately 2,000 people annually who are homeless or at risk of becoming so, including single adults, families, emancipated foster youth, people with disabilities and seniors. Abode Services' Project HOPE Mobile Health Clinic, operated in collaboration with Tri-City Health Center, serves more than 1,000 homeless persons annually. Since 2005, Abode Services has created 325 units of permanent supportive housing for previously homeless families.

I join the community in congratulating Abode Services on this significant milestone of 20 years of exemplary leadership and service. The organization continues to fulfill its vision and mission of providing affordable housing and supportive services to individuals and families throughout Alameda.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 1, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 175 on a motion to table H. Res. 312. If present, I would have voted "yea."

386TH ENGINEERING BATTALION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women of the 386th Engineering Battalion and the Christus Spohn Healthcare System.

Since December 2006, members of the 386th Engineering Battalion have been working side-by-side with their civilian counterparts in the only level three trauma center in the Corpus Christi area. During their drill weekends, these soldiers are assigned to duties inside the hospital's emergency room to work in triage, fast track or trauma.

Through this joint effort, the 386th Engineering Battalion was able to utilize these real world experiences on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

I would like to take some time now to honor Lt. Col. John Beignano and Lt. Col. Francisco Zuniga. These gentlemen worked tirelessly with the Christus Spohn Healthcare System administrators to make this idea a reality. By participating in this important work, these soldiers are making significant contributions to the community and to their fellow soldiers. Their families and loved ones should be proud of their service to the country and the extraordinary way they have improved people's lives.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the men and women of the 386th Engineering Battalion and the Christus Spohn Healthcare System.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARY SYSTEM FOR ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY AS A FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the University of Michigan and its University Library System in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary as a Federal Depository Library.

Since 1884, the University of Michigan Library has served the University of Michigan and the Southeastern Michigan community as a public space where citizens can find information about their government. As part of the Federal Library Depository Program (FLDP), the University of Michigan Library provides free access to journals, electronic resources, microfilm and more on an endless number of topics and is equipped with thoroughly trained librarians to help navigate. Throughout its history, the FLDP has striven to make our citizenry more informed and ultimately more engaged in the democratic process.

The University of Michigan Library in Ann Arbor is one of the largest university library systems in the United States. It consists of 19 libraries in 11 buildings, which combined, hold over 8 million volumes. These impressive statistics and the fine work of its employees mean this library system has consistently ranked as one of the top ten academic research libraries in North America. The fact that the University of Michigan has, for 125 years, been home to a FDLP library speaks to both its remarkable record as an educational institution and its committed role in ensuring access to our civic process.

Once again, I congratulate the University of Michigan on this tremendous achievement and I wish the library system and the entire university the very best in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOPE PLUS SCHOLARSHIP ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I raise to introduce the Hope Plus Scholarship Act, which

expands the Hope Education Scholarship credit to cover K–12 education expenses. Under this bill, parents could use the Hope Scholarship to pay for private or religious school tuition or to offset the cost of home schooling. In addition, under the bill, all Americans could use the Hope Scholarship to make cash or in-kind donations to public schools. Thus, the Hope Scholarship could help working parents send their child to a private school, while other parents could take advantage of the Hope credit to help purchase new computers for their children's local public school.

Reducing taxes so that Americans can devote more of their own resources to education is the best way to improve America's schools, since individuals are more likely than federal bureaucrats to insist that schools be accountable for student performance. When the federal government controls the education dollar, schools will be held accountable for their compliance with bureaucratic paperwork requirements and mandates that have little to do with actual education. Federal rules and regulations also divert valuable resources away from classroom instruction.

The only way to reform America's education system is through restoring control of the education dollar to the American people so they can ensure schools provide their children a quality education. I therefore ask all of my colleagues to help improve education by returning education resources to the American people by cosponsoring the Hope Plus Scholarship Act.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the outstanding achievements and cultural legacy of the Kansas City Public Library in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, which I proudly represent. The Kansas City Public Library, having received the prestigious 2008 National Medal for Museum and Library Service presented by former First Lady Laura Bush for their "Books to Go" project, events and exhibits, represents preservation and celebration of Missouri's Fifth District's diverse history.

The Kansas City Public Library's role is to "actively provide timely, accurate and useful information; support individual of all ages pursuing a program of independent learning; and assists researchers in conducting in-depth study or investigation in specific subject areas". The library has come to serve nearly every contingent of the Fifth District population, in both urban and suburban areas, actively seeking to engage our citizens in classes, discussions, lectures and events. It allows our citizenry to explore its role as America's heartland evolving from a frontier city to a modern day metropolis with racial and cultural diversity. Through clubs, movies and exhibits, people of all ages can participate in the many opportunities that the library has to offer.

Under the wisdom and guidance of Chief Executive Crosby Kemper III and its Board of

Directors with Jonathan Kemper serving as Board President, the Kansas City Public Library has emerged as a crucial cultural center in our community. Housing and preserving in multimedia and primary source, the library system has come to foster intellectual enrichment through working collaboratively with our many world-class organizations of cultural preservation and celebration, such as the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum, and the National World War I Museum, to name a few. Our hallowed library serves as an extension of the works of these fine institutions to ensure that not a corner of our community is denied the opportunity to share in our heritage.

Mr. Crosby Kemper, a graduate of the esteemed Yale University and member of one of Kansas City's most philanthropic families, serves tirelessly as a distinguished administrator and innovator to expose our community to intellectual growth. Due to his efforts and that of the Board of Directors, the Kansas City Public Library provides events and lectures that provoke thought, information and discussion. The library has become a focal point of intellectual conversation in our community.

Perhaps most importantly, the Kansas City Public Library houses the freedom of opportunity which our nation cherishes as the cornerstone of its efficacy. Our understanding of peace and justice requires an intellectual grounding in the events of our shared history. Through history, we find our cultural underpinnings and past solutions which evolve into today's paradigm.

For these reasons and more, I am proud to have nominated the Kansas City Public Library for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Madam Speaker, through their efforts, they have let loose imaginations, inspired change and become a cornerstone around which our entire community gathers. A city can only be as good as its public libraries, and we all take pride that ours is among America's very best. Please join me in congratulating the Kansas City Public Library, its Board, Crosby Kemper, and the staff, volunteers and supporters that help to make our state-of-the-art Kansas City Public Library a national award winner.

HONORING MAUD F. ROBINSON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Maud F. Robinson to the town of Vienna, Virginia. Maud will be retiring from the Vienna Town Council in June, after serving on the council since 2000.

Maud and her husband, Charles A. Robinson, Jr., moved to Vienna in 1951. Since that time, Mrs. Robinson has been involved in every aspect of life in the town. She has served as president of various local organizations, including the Vienna Women's Club, the Ayr Hill Garden Club, and Historic Vienna, Inc. She was a founding member and president of the town's library. She served as a member of Vienna's first Architectural Review Board and on the town's Business Liaison Committee. Among other honors, Mrs. Robinson was se-

lected as Citizen of the Year in Vienna in 1993 and 2000.

Mrs. Robinson was appointed to the Vienna Town Council in 2000, to fill the term of Jane Seeman, who was elected town mayor following the death of Charles Robinson. Mr. Robinson served as town mayor for 27 years. Mrs. Robinson was reelected four times to her seat on the council, for a total of nine years.

Mrs. Robinson is a graduate of Smith College and attended the University of Virginia Law School. She served as a WAVE lieutenant, junior grade, in the United States Navy.

Maud Robinson's commitment to Vienna's citizens and business community is unparalleled. She is a woman of the highest moral integrity and is a true role model for all of Vienna's citizens. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in honoring Maud Robinson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 1, 2009, during consideration of the End GREED Act (H.R. 1575), my vote was recorded as "no" on final passage of the bill (rollcall No. 178). I intended to vote "aye."

HONORING STEWARTS CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER TREY DUKE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trey Duke, a teacher at Stewarts Creek Elementary School, who was a 2008 recipient of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. Trey was the only Tennessee educator to receive the award in 2008, and he joins 56 other teachers from the state who have been honored with the award in the past.

The Milken National Educators Award program began in 1985 and is now the largest teacher recognition program in the United States. The award honors K–12 teachers, principals and specialists with \$25,000 individual awards and gives them the opportunity to participate in a national teachers conference. At the conference, award recipients engage in professional development and examine possible solutions to significant issues in education with leaders from academia, government, business and the community.

Prior to receiving the national award, Trey had only been teaching for five years. His creative teaching strategies, which include book clubs, music and PowerPoint presentations, have resulted in his fifth grade students not only meeting but exceeding proficiency goals. At the end of the year, he writes a poem detailing each student's progress and places the poem in his or her report card.

"I feel like part of my job is not just to instruct the students, but to make them excited and to make them want to come to school every day and to get them involved in what we

learn," Trey says. His commitment to his students extends beyond the classroom, as evidenced by his leadership roles at the school and system level. Trey is acting principal when Stewarts Creek Elementary School Principal Richard Zago is absent.

Congratulations, again, Trey. To impart a love of learning to children at this formative stage in their life is a gift they will carry with them and always prosper from.

HONORING ADMIRAL ROBERT E.
PEARY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a great American and extraordinary explorer, Admiral Robert Edwin Peary, and the one hundredth anniversary of his expedition to the North Pole.

Peary was born on May 6, 1856 in Cresson, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Bowdoin College and joined the United States Navy in 1881. Peary made several expeditions throughout the Arctic, including Greenland, during this lifetime.

On April 6, 1909 Peary concluded his journey to the North Pole. He was accompanied by his longtime companion Matthew Henson and four Inuit men.

Throughout his life, he received many awards, honors, and honorary degrees. In 1911 Peary retired from the Navy with the rank of Rear Admiral. He died on February 20, 1920 in Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, at this time in history when the North Pole is so important to geopolitics, I hope that our nation will reflect on the hundredth anniversary of Admiral Peary's great accomplishment.

INTRODUCING THE MAKE COLLEGE
AFFORDABLE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to help millions of Americans afford higher education by introducing the Make College Affordable Act of 2009, which makes college tuition tax deductible. Today the average cost of education at a state university is \$12,796 per year, and the cost of education at a private university is \$30,367 per year. These high costs have left many middle-class American families struggling to afford college for their children, who are often ineligible for financial aid. Therefore, middle-class students have no choice but to obtain student loans, and thus leave college saddled with massive debt.

Even families who plan and save well in advance for their children's education may have a difficult time because their savings are eroded by taxation and inflation. The Make College Affordable Act will help these middle-class students by allowing them, or their parents or

guardians who claim them as dependents, to deduct the cost of college tuition as well as the cost of student loan repayments.

The Make College Affordable Act will also help older or nontraditional students looking to improve their job skills or prepare for a career change, by pursuing higher education. In today's economy, the average American worker can expect to change jobs, and even careers, several times during his or her working life, making it more important than ever that working Americans be able to devote their resources to continuing their educations.

Helping the American people use their own money to ensure every qualified American can receive a college education is one of the best investments this Congress can make in the future. I therefore urge my colleagues to help strengthen America by ensuring more Americans can obtain college educations by co-sponsoring the Make College Affordable Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in a series of votes on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 180, a Bean (IL)/McMahon (NY) Amendment to H.R. 1664, a bill to amend the executive compensation provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, I would have voted "nay" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 181, a Dahlkemper (PA) Amendment to H.R. 1664, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 182, final passage of H.R. 1664, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

THE PATRIOT CORPORATIONS OF
AMERICA ACT: INVESTING IN
AMERICA

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves in the grips of recession. As of this morning there were 5.7 million Americans without a job and we should be doing everything in our power to save jobs—and create new ones.

Today, I am introducing the Patriot Corporations of America Act, which encourages corporations to invest in the American people and the American economy. In this time of change we should lift the spirit of patriotism and create a new corporate ethic in America—one that unites workers and their employers in the mutual goal of building a stronger, more prosperous business that will contribute to a stronger, more prosperous America.

Since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, we have benefited from the

great work and contributions of countless American patriots and Congress has always undertaken efforts to honor those men and women. The Patriot Corporations of America Act continues that tradition by rewarding companies that commit to America and American workers.

It angers Americans, and it angers me, when companies outsource jobs and relocate to avoid giving back to the country that afforded them the opportunity to succeed. Companies that continue to send American jobs abroad during these difficult times should not receive the same benefits as companies who are keeping jobs right here. It is time for the United States to reward companies that show a dedication to the American workforce.

The Patriot Corporation Act will move us along the path to recovery, while simultaneously giving a hand-up to "patriotic" companies that are struggling in the midst of a recession.

Bill Edley, a former State Representative in Illinois, and political scientist Robin Johnson of Monmouth College, introduced a new idea of turning the tables around with the Patriot Corporations of America Act. It would reward companies, like New Maryland Clothing and Tama Manufacturing, that care about our Nation, our communities, and American workers. I am honored to be introducing this common-sense concept in the form of legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In exchange for preferential treatment in government contracting and a 5% tax rate reduction, Patriot Corporations would be asked to pledge their allegiance to our country by producing at least 90% of their goods and doing at least 50% of their research and development in the United States. They would limit top managements' compensation to no greater than 100 times that of their lowest-compensated full-time workers. They would show their commitment to their workers by contributing at least 5% of payroll to portable pension funds and by paying for at least 70% of the cost of health insurance plans. Finally, Patriot Corporations would simply be required to comply with existing federal regulations regarding the environment, workplace safety, consumer protections and labor relations, including maintaining neutrality in employee organizing drives.

Mr. Speaker, the Patriot Corporations for America Act would be revenue neutral. It would be paid for by closing corporate offshoring loopholes that have been exploited and, if necessary, reining in some of the new tax breaks for millionaires.

Patriot Corporations would create a new class of companies committed to uphold the dignity and prosperity of American workers as well as to selling their goods on the American market and around the world.

Patriot Corporations are an expression of the American spirit of our fore fathers and mothers when they took that brave step of declaring our independence and creating the United States of America.

I'm confident that between the Recovery Act and legislation like the Patriots Corporation Act—America will emerge stronger from this recession.

I am honored to be introducing this bill today and I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting American businesses and workers.

TRIBUTE TO GARDNER MAYOR
CAROL LEHMAN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to honor Gardner, Kansas, Mayor Carol Lehman who is stepping down this year after serving for 20 years as mayor. Before being elected mayor, Carol served two years on the City Council. During her time as mayor, Gardner has grown and prospered, no doubt in part because of the wise and stable leadership that Carol provided. Through it all, Gardner retains all the charm of a Midwestern small town, with the advantages of being a short drive from Kansas City.

I would like to read into the record Mayor Lehman's recent farewell message to her community. In this message, I know you will see the affection and devotion she feels to Gardner, and will understand how much all of us will miss her common sense, humor, and leadership.

It doesn't seem possible I'm writing my last Mayor's message—20 years have gone by in a flash. The advancements we've made in the last 20 years are too numerous to mention, but some do stand out as milestones in our story of growth and change.

When metro dialing became available in Gardner, we weren't "out of town" anymore and homebuilders started making their way down 1–35. When McDonald's came, we surely thought we had arrived when every child in town could have a happy meal—in their own backyard! New subdivisions began popping up and both the City and the School District realized they had many challenges facing them. The excitement of Country Mart locating in Moonlight Plaza, as our first "big" grocery store was only surpassed by Price Chopper becoming a Gardner presence. The construction of TradeNet in Gardner was the first new industry we had seen in years. And finally the arrival of Wal-Mart assured more sales tax dollars would be staying in our community!

By adding the departments of Community Development, Public Safety, Finance, and Parks & Recreation to our City Administration team, a new era of professionalism was established. Some noteworthy accomplishments include: designating Hillsdale Lake as the City's water supply, building the new water treatment plant and the new wastewater treatment plant, the expansion of City Hall, donating land to Johnson County for our new library, partnering with our veterans to build Veteran's Park, forming the Economic Development Corporation with the help of local businesses, enhancing the Gardner Greenway Corridor and walking paths, creating the Downtown Enhancement District, Christmas in the Park, widening Center Street, working on future plans of the BNSF Intermodal Logistics Park and anticipating in the future revenue it will generate in our city, county and state, Gardner's fabulous Sesquicentennial Celebration, building Plum Creek Public Safety Station #2, annexing nearly 5,600 acres and experiencing the population explosion—from 4,380 in 1989 to approximately 18,000 today! Most recently, the

announcement of a 1.1 million square foot warehouse building in Gardner with the promise of 200 jobs is great news for the City and its residents.

I can vividly remember an event that occurred on my birthday in June, 2005. The results of our park sales tax question came in with a resounding Yes, passing by 72%! That was a birthday present to remember! Citizens are now enjoying our fabulous Gardner Aquatics Center and beautiful Celebration Park. The passage of that ballot question emphasized to City leaders how important quality of life is to our families and it also told us that Gardner wants to enjoy leisure time closer to home.

The influx of new citizens and young families has been exhilarating—they have continued to bring, to their new "home town", high expectations, and an enthusiasm and brightness which will light Gardner for years to come. It has been heartwarming to see the blend of new and long time citizens in our churches, neighborhoods and civic organizations—working together to make Gardner a quality community.

In the last 20 years, there have been bumps in the road, but with each challenge we have been fortunate to have the right people in the right places to guide and advise us. With each disappointment we have learned much, pledged to do better the next time and approached the new day with optimism.

Gardner has been blessed with a succession of forward thinking City Council Members and Planning Commissioners. For many years now, the City Council has planned for the future, embraced growth and change and kept the mill levy steady, while at the same time earning the city an A2 bond rating. Together, with a visionary staff whose expertise, professionalism and creativity rates among the best, Gardner has handled our explosive growth well and we will be ready for whatever the future brings.

I cannot adequately express to you what an honor and a privilege it has been to be your Mayor, and I humbly thank you. Gardner has always been a town of wonderful people; if I am certain of one thing as the torch is passed, I know the future shines brightly for this town and its residents.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, Consolidated Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2009. These earmarks are all multi-member requests and national projects/projects.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE AND SCIENCE

Delaware River Basin Commission, P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, NJ—\$235,000—Funding for the Delaware River Enhanced Flood Warning System. The funding will be

used to assist the Delaware River Basin Commission, in conjunction with NOAA/NWS, USGS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with the enhancement of the basin's flood warning system. This enhancement will include the evaluation and improvement of existing precipitation and stream gage networks, development of additional NOAA flood forecast points in both non-tidal and tidal stream reaches, and merger of GIS and Doppler radar technology to improve flash flood warning capabilities for smaller watersheds.

ENERGY AND WATER

Mid-Atlantic River Commissions, Delaware River Basin Commission, P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, NJ—\$2,365,000—This funding is necessary to fulfill the federal government's obligation to provide an equitable share of funding for the commissions, as required under their compacts. This funding will enable the commissions to implement critically important water resources management projects and activities in the national interest.

LABOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION

National Writing Project Corporation, University of California, 2105 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA—\$24,291,000—It is my understanding that the funding would be used to fund programs in teacher development, quality writing, and research to help improve student performance in writing.

Reach Out and Read National Center, 56 Roland Street, Boston, MA—\$4,965,000—It is my understanding that the funding would be used for the purposes authorized in Section 5411–5414 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Center for Civic Education, 5145 Douglas Fir Road, Calabasas, CA—\$25,095,000—It is my understanding that the funding would be used to support the We the People program and the Cooperative Education Exchange, the purposes of which are authorized by the Education for Democracy Act (Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Sections 2341–2346).

National Council on Economic Education, 1140 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 202, New York, NY—\$5,019,000—It is my understanding that the funding would be used to support the Cooperative Education Exchange, the purposes of which are authorized by the Education for Democracy Act (Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Sections 2341–2346).

National History Day, 0119 Cecil Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD—\$500,000—It is my understanding that the funding would be used to expand and improve National History Day, a year-long non-profit education program, focused on grades 6–12, that works with both students and teachers to improve the teaching and learning of history in schools.

Reading is Fundamental, Inc., 1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC—\$24,803,000—It is my understanding that the funding would be used for the purposes authorized in Section 5451 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to support and promote programs, which include the distribution of inexpensive books to young and school-age children, that motivate children to read.

RECOGNIZING MANITOWOC MAYOR
KEVIN CRAWFORD ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the Honorable Kevin Crawford, the longest continually-serving mayor in the history of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. First elected in 1989, Mayor Crawford is stepping down this month to pursue another career path.

Mayor Crawford's energetic and creative leadership over twenty years has helped provide the spark fueling a business and manufacturing revival in Manitowoc that has made the city one of Wisconsin's biggest economic success stories of recent years. His focus on job creation, pursuit of public-private partnerships and instinct for opportunity helped the city capitalize on its already diverse manufacturing base, skilled labor force and unique attributes as a Lake Michigan port city with a proud history as a World War II maritime industry leader.

Over the years, I have worked with Kevin Crawford on many issues of importance to Manitowoc and have come to know him as a tireless and passionate advocate for the city. It's clear to me that his optimism and hard work have not only offered an impetus for progress and growth in the city, but have contributed to the momentum to sustain it.

Last year The Wall Street Journal ran a feature story highlighting the manufacturing and exporting successes of the city and its rebound after the closing of its second-largest employer in 2003. Mayor Crawford has called manufacturing a "core pillar of our economy," and has seen to it that local government takes an active role in developing what he terms "new economy manufacturing," including new technology and jobs.

Indeed, in the current global recession, hits to the Manitowoc economy have been buffered by the presence of promising new energy-related companies that have taken root there in recent years.

During his tenure, Mayor Crawford negotiated the revival of car ferry passenger service between Manitowoc and Ludington, Michigan, and has worked to ensure its continued success. He was instrumental in bringing new owners and leadership to the ailing Burger Boat Company, now firmly positioned as a world leader in luxury yacht manufacturing.

As commissioner of the Manitowoc Public Utilities, Mayor Crawford has been the dedicated chief steward of this city-owned and managed electric and water utility which has grown considerably over the last two decades and affords local citizens some of the lowest utility rates in the country. Considered one of the most knowledgeable local elected officials in the area of electric energy, he has been recognized by the American Public Power Association, the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Water Association.

Other achievements of the Crawford era in Manitowoc include the construction of a new city hall, library and public safety building, the development of a new Visitor Information Cen-

ter, and major retail expansion and infrastructure improvements.

In addition, Mayor Crawford created and has fostered an active sixteen-year sister-city relationship between Manitowoc and Kamagowa, Japan. The partnership has resulted in numerous citizen exchange visits over the years and is acknowledged to be one of the most vibrant sister-city associations in the country.

His colleagues across Wisconsin have also recognized Mayor Crawford's outstanding leadership skills. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities and a Past President of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities as well as a member of its legislative committee.

In light of his many years of commitment to the people of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and his impressive record of accomplishment, I am proud to recognize Mayor Kevin Crawford and extend my congratulations and appreciation to him on his retirement from public service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFE SUS-
TAINING TREATMENT PREF-
ERENCES ACT OF 2009

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Life Sustaining Treatment Preferences Act of 2009. As we approach health care reform, there is no other area more vital for honest discussion and careful analysis than what happens at a patient's end of life.

For most of us, the majority of our lifetime health care will be administered in that last year of life. Indeed for many, it is just the last few months where we will use the most doctor care, the most medical procedures, and the most days in a hospital.

Advances in healthcare have led to an aging population facing increasingly complex end of life health care decisions. These strains make complicated, critical decision making about medical care incredibly difficult. Too often, these decisions are avoided until a crisis occurs, resulting in inadequate planning, unknown patient preferences, and families left struggling with the burden of determining their loved ones' wishes. For both families and patients, this is a time of incredible stress, confusion, and pain.

In response, health organizations in Oregon came together in the early 1990s to develop the Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment program to help seriously ill patients identify their treatment preferences using a clear, standardized template. Written as actionable medical orders and signed by a physician, these forms help communicate patient preference to health care personnel regarding intensity of medical intervention, transfers to the hospital, use of antibiotics, artificially administered nutrition, and resuscitation.

National interest in Oregon's Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment program has spread and Oregon has become the national resource for states and communities interested in developing similar programs. Last year, California and New York enacted orders for life sustaining treatment programs and over thirty other states are developing programs.

We can and should do more to support these efforts to enhance quality patient care at the end of life. The Life Sustaining Treatment Preferences Act provides coverage under Medicare for consultations regarding orders for life sustaining treatment. These discussions add quality and value to patient care, but they often require significant time, proper training, and great delicacy, which merit compensation through Medicare. Medicare currently pays for acute care services provided to beneficiaries, but it does not specifically recognize the important benefit of informed discussions between patients and their health provider about care preferences for their last months and years of life.

The Life Sustaining Treatment Preferences Act also creates a grant program to support the development and expansion of these programs, providing necessary resources to states and local communities. These programs provide valuable services to patients, their families, and health care providers through educational materials; professional training on advance care planning; coordinating and collaborating with hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, hospice programs, home health agencies, and emergency medical services to implement such orders across the continuum of care; and monitoring the success of the program.

To be effective, advance care plans must ensure that treatment preferences are elicited and presented in a way that is recognized and respected by the health care community—orders for life sustaining treatment programs do just that. These programs have a track record of promoting patient autonomy through documenting and coordinating a person's treatment preferences, enhancing the authorized transfer of patient records between facilities, clarifying treatment intentions and minimizing confusion, reducing repetitive activities in complying with the Patient Self Determination Act, and facilitating appropriate treatment by emergency personnel. Oregon is nationally recognized for our exemplary end of life care and orders for life sustaining treatment have played a critical role providing quality, patient-centered care for those in their final chapter of life.

I am proud to introduce the Life Sustaining Treatment Preferences Act of 2009, which will lay the groundwork so all seriously ill Americans have the tools to make informed medical care decisions, convey their care plans as clearly as possible, and feel confident their wishes will be known and respected by health care personnel.

INTRODUCING THE AGRICULTURE
EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Agriculture Education Freedom Act. This bill addresses a great injustice being perpetrated by the Federal Government on those youngsters who participate in programs such as 4-H or the Future Farmers of America. Under current tax law, children are forced to pay federal income tax when they sell livestock they have raised as part of an agricultural education program.

Think about this for a moment. These kids are trying to better themselves, earn some

money, save some money and what does Congress do? We pick on these kids by taxing them. It is truly amazing that with all the hand-wringing in Congress over the alleged need to further restrict liberty and grow the size of government "for the children" we would continue to tax young people who are trying to lead responsible lives and prepare for the future. Even if the serious social problems today's youth face could be solved by new federal bureaucracies and programs, it is still unfair to pick on those kids who are trying to do the right thing.

These children are not even old enough to vote, yet we are forcing them to pay taxes. What ever happened to no taxation without representation? No wonder young people are so cynical about government.

It is time we stopped taxing youngsters who are trying to earn money to go to college by selling livestock they have raised through their participation in programs such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the Agriculture Education Freedom Act.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO BRING PARITY TO TSA EMPLOY- EES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join Congresswoman LOWEY and Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE in introducing today a bill that will bring parity to Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees and ensure security. This legislation would provide the same rights to all TSA employees, including the Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) (i.e., screeners), as those already enjoyed by employees at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and numerous front-line security agencies throughout the country, including state law enforcement agencies.

In the 110th Congress, The Committee on Homeland Security worked to give a broad range of rights to the Transportation Security Administration workforce in H.R. 1, Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007. Basic workplace protections and collective bargaining rights were a key part of this effort. While the House passed these important measures and the Senate followed suit, to avoid a veto from the Bush Administration, these protections were stripped from the conference report. This bill renews and improves upon this effort by increasing the quality of the entire TSA workforce and not just a smaller part of it. This bill will increase security by improving workforce morale and employee retention, and will put workers in a position to expose security gaps and put TSA on par with other DHS components.

In 2001, when TSA was created, Congress provided discretionary authority allowing TSA to create different classes of employees, each with different rights and protections. Specifically, the 107th Congress and President Bush gave the TSA Administrator the discretionary authority to set up two different TSAs. One group of TSA employees would be given one

set of rights and the other group, the TSOs (i.e., screeners), could be treated differently, with respect to conditions and benefits of employment, discipline, compensation, leave, and other basic employment rights.

Under then TSA Administrator, Admiral James Loy, the Bush Administration exercised discretionary authority to create two classes of TSA employees by denying the TSOs certain employment rights. While this discretionary authority helped quickly establish and stand-up TSA, as intended by the 107th Congress and the Bush Administration, it was, and continues to be the impetus for low employee morale and diminished transportation security.

From survey results to testimony over the past several years, we have seen that the TSA workforce is frustrated by the lack of recognition and rewards for performance and promotion practices, confused by different policies and procedures on leave, training, and other administrative matters.

On March 5, 2009, a House Homeland Security Subcommittee received testimony from employee representatives of the workforce. All of TSA operates under a separate personnel system than other DHS components. Further, the TSO workforce is not allowed to collectively bargain in contrast with the CBP workforce and others across the federal government, including state law enforcement. These discrepancies and differences lead to confusion, frustration and further erode morale.

The time for personnel experiments is now over. The employees of TSA deserve to be treated like their fellow employees in the DHS and across the Federal government—fairly and equitably. Providing basic employment protections and rights is critical to instill confidence in the workforce. The time for two classes of TSA employees is over—this bill eliminates this dichotomy.

This legislation brings parity to the TSA workforce. The bill affords the workforce the same rights and protections their colleagues across the federal government and the Department enjoy under Title 5 of the United States Code and other civil service laws such as provisions of the Federal Labor Standards Act, Equal Pay Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act and the Rehabilitation Act, among others.

The legislation aims to transition the 60,000 plus TSA workforce in a responsible way from its current and varied personnel systems to that of Title 5. It provides the Secretary and Assistant Secretary the discretion on how and when to move to the new system, although not later than 60 days after the date of enactment. It also provides a window for the transition to allow for consultation with employee representatives and communication with the workforce. Further, it ensures that no employee will lose any pay, accrued leave or health benefit that is currently afforded to them.

To truly provide comprehensive transportation security, it must start with those who provide the security—in this case all TSA employees, including the TSOs. We must set up a system where all TSA employees are protected, otherwise we will have a system that treats colleagues differently and remains inefficient to the extent of hindering transportation security. In the end, by creating one TSA as a part of one DHS the American public truly receives national security.

We look forward to working with our colleagues to put the TSA workforce in a system

that has stood the test of time and shown itself to be fair and equitable.

INTRODUCING THE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT TAX CUT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act. This act, a companion to my Family Education Freedom Act, takes a further step toward returning control over education resources to private citizens by providing a \$5,000 tax credit for donations to scholarship funds to enable low-income children to attend private schools. It also encourages private citizens to devote more of their resources to helping public schools, by providing a \$5,000 tax credit for cash or in-kind donations to public schools to support academic or extra curricular programs.

I need not remind my colleagues that education is one of the top priorities of the American people. After all, many members of Congress have proposed education reforms and a great deal of time is spent debating these proposals. However, most of these proposals expand federal control over education. Many proposals that claim to increase local control over education actually extend federal power by holding schools "accountable" to federal bureaucrats and politicians. Of course, schools should be held accountable for their results, but they should be held accountable to parents and school boards not to federal officials. Therefore, I propose we move in a different direction and embrace true federalism by returning control over the education dollar to the American people.

One of the major problems with centralized control over education funding is that spending priorities set by Washington-based Representatives, staffers, and bureaucrats do not necessarily match the needs of individual communities. In fact, it would be a miracle if spending priorities determined by the wishes of certain politically powerful representatives or the theories of Education Department functionaries match the priorities of every community in a country as large and diverse as America. Block grants do not solve this problem as they simply allow states and localities to choose the means to reach federally-determined ends.

Returning control over the education dollar for tax credits for parents and for other concerned citizens returns control over both the means and ends of education policy to local communities. People in one community may use this credit to purchase computers, while children in another community may, at last, have access to a quality music program because of community leaders who took advantage of the tax credit contained in this bill.

Children in some communities may benefit most from the opportunity to attend private, parochial, or other religious schools. One of the most encouraging trends in education has been the establishment of private scholarship programs. These scholarship funds use voluntary contributions to open the doors of quality private schools to low-income children. By providing a tax credit for donations to these programs, Congress can widen the educational opportunities and increase the quality

of education for all children. Furthermore, privately-funded scholarships raise none of the concerns of state entanglement raised by publicly-funded vouchers.

There is no doubt that Americans will always spend generously on education, the question is, "who should control the education dollar—politicians and bureaucrats or the American people?" Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in placing control of education back in the hands of citizens and local communities by sponsoring the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1256 directs the Secretary of HHS to promulgate an interim final rule that is identical to the FDA's 1996 rule, which legal experts from across the political spectrum have stated would violate the First Amendment.

While these experts' views should carry great weight, even more persuasive is the fact that the U.S. Supreme Court also has weighed in on various provisions of the rule, finding them unconstitutional.

In *Lorillard Tobacco Co. v. Reilly*, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Massachusetts statute that was similar in many ways to the FDA's proposed rule. The statute banned outdoor ads within 1,000 feet of schools, parks and playgrounds and also restricted point-of-sale advertising for tobacco products.

The Court held that this regulation ran afoul of the test established in the *Central Hudson* case, which defines the protection afforded commercial speech under the First Amendment, as it was not sufficiently narrowly tailored, and would have disparate impacts from community to community.

The Court then noted that since the Massachusetts statute was based on the FDA's rule, the FDA rule would have similar constitutional problems.

As Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote for the Court, "the uniformly broad sweep of the geographical limitation demonstrates a lack of tailoring."

Additionally, the proposed rule in H.R. 1256 would require ads to use only black text on a white background. The U.S. Supreme Court found a similar provision unconstitutional in *Zauderer v. Office of Disciplinary Counsel*. In that case, dealing with advertising for legal services, the Court held that the use of colors and illustrations in ads is entitled to the same First Amendment protections given verbal commercial speech.

Justice Byron White, in his opinion for the Court, wrote that pictures and illustrations in ads cannot be banned "simply on the strength of the general argument that the visual content of advertisements may, under some circumstances, be deceptive or manipulative."

So there are numerous speech restrictions in this legislation that raise serious First Amendment concerns. This will create a swarm of lawsuits that will only divert us from trying to develop more effective approaches to tobacco use in the United States.

To include speech restrictions that a broad range of legal experts have stated are almost certain to be unconstitutional fatally taints this bill.

I know the bill is well-intentioned but I hope my colleagues will support the alternative offered by the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. BUYER.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO BRING PARITY TO TSA EMPLOYEES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to join the Honorable NITA M. LOWEY and the Honorable BENNIE G. THOMPSON, in introducing a bill that will bring parity to Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees and ensures security. This legislation would provide the same rights to all TSA employees, including the Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) (i.e., screeners), as those already enjoyed by employees at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and numerous front-line security agencies throughout the country, including state law enforcement agencies.

In the 110th Congress, The Committee on Homeland Security worked to give a broad range of rights to the Transportation Security Administration workforce in H.R. 1, Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007. Basic workplace protections and collective bargaining rights were a key part of this effort. While the House passed these important measures and the Senate followed suit, to avoid a veto from the Bush Administration, these protections were stripped from the conference report. This bill renews and improves upon this effort by increasing the quality of the entire TSA workforce and not just a smaller part of it. This bill will increase security by improving workforce morale and employee retention, and will put workers in a position to expose security gaps and put TSA on par with other DHS components.

In 2001, when TSA was created, Congress provided discretionary authority allowing TSA to create different classes of employees, each with different rights and protections. Specifically, the 107th Congress and President Bush gave the TSA Administrator the discretionary authority to set up two different TSAs. One group of TSA employees would be given one set of rights and the other group, the TSOs (i.e., screeners), could be treated differently, with respect to conditions and benefits of employment, discipline, compensation, leave, and other basic employment rights.

Under then TSA Administrator, Admiral James Loy, the Bush Administration exercised discretionary authority to create two classes of TSA employees by denying the TSOs certain employment rights. While this discretionary authority helped quickly establish and stand-up TSA, as intended by the 107th Congress and the Bush Administration, it was, and continues to be the impetus for low employee morale and diminished transportation security.

From survey results to testimony over the past several years, we have seen that the

TSA workforce is frustrated by the lack of recognition and rewards for performance and promotion practices, confused by different policies and procedures on leave, training, and other administrative matters.

On March 5, 2009, a House Homeland Security Subcommittee received testimony from employee representatives of the workforce. All of TSA operates under a separate personnel system than other DHS components. Further, the TSO workforce is not allowed to collectively bargain in contrast with the CBP workforce and others across the federal government, including state law enforcement. These discrepancies and differences lead to confusion, frustration and further erode morale.

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To truly provide comprehensive transportation security, it must start with those who provide the security—in this case all TSA employees, including the TSOs. We must set up a system where all TSA employees are protected, otherwise we will have a system that treats colleagues differently and remains inefficient to the extent of hindering transportation security. In the end, by creating one TSA as a part of a one DHS the American public truly receives national security.

We look forward to working with our colleagues to put the TSA workforce in a system that has stood the test of time and shown itself to be fair and equitable.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO BRING PARITY TO TSA EMPLOYEES

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join Chairman THOMPSON and Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE in introducing today

a bill that will bring parity to Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees and ensures security. This legislation would provide the same rights to all TSA employees, including the Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) (i.e., screeners), as those already enjoyed by employees at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and numerous front-line security agencies throughout the country, including state law enforcement agencies.

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We look forward to working with our colleagues to put the TSA workforce in a system that has stood the test of time and shown itself to be fair and equitable.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHLAND HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Northland High School in Columbus, Ohio. Northland High School is in my congressional district, and as a Northland graduate, I am proud to recognize a school that not only excels in academics but also distinguishes itself on the basketball court. The Northland High School basketball team recently won the 2009 Ohio Division I Boys Basketball Championship. In the championship game, Northland defeated Cincinnati Princeton 60 to 58.

The basketball team is an outstanding example of hard work, determination and perseverance. They had 27 wins and only one loss in the 2008–2009 season, and have earned the first boys basketball title in school history.

They are led by their top scorer, Jared Sullinger, who was recently named the Associated Press “Mr. Basketball” for Ohio, Junior

James “JD” Weatherspoon, Seniors Sam Belisle, Dimonde Hale, Ricky Bennett and Javon Cornley, along with teammates Charles Edgerton, Quentin Henderson, Trey Burke, Lavante Justice, Ke’Chaun Lewis, Jordan Potts, Devon Scott, Jakyl Cornley, and Roberto Pierre.

The team is led by Head Coach J. Satch Sullinger; Assistants Frank Smith, Michael Clouse, Leigh Horston and Jerome White.

It is an honor to represent such a fine group of young people who have a strong dedication to team work and academics. I know each one of them will treasure the memories of their championship season and I commend them, and the Northland community, for this truly great achievement.

HONORING LEON FLEISHER

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor pianist and conductor Leon Fleisher on the occasion of his 80th birthday. His musical contributions have touched the people of Maryland for many years, and the story of Leon’s life is a testament to both the inspirational power of music and the indomitable nature of the human spirit. As a young man, Leon was acclaimed as a once-in-a-generation musical talent, and by his mid-twenties, Leon had become one of the world’s most-respected and sought-after piano soloists, creating a number of timeless interpretations of classic works that are admired to this day.

When a rare neurological condition stripped him of the use of his right hand, he refused to allow the condition to limit his work and continued to contribute to classical music. As a conductor and director, Leon inspired and energized other musicians from such distinguished organizations as the Baltimore Symphony, the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Peabody Conservatory, the Royal Conservatory of Toronto, and the Kennedy Center’s Theater Chamber Players. As a teacher, Leon imparted his own knowledge, passion, and skill to many musicians who now carry the weight of his musical legacy. As a performer, Leon performed the definitive left-handed interpretations of numerous works, inspiring many composers to create new works for the previously underutilized left hand.

After years of special treatments, Leon returned to Carnegie Hall in a truly inspiring culmination of years of determined effort. The recipient of countless awards and accolades, Leon Fleisher has been a true gift to the people of the 3rd district of Maryland, and the field of classical music in general. His performances and personal story remain powerful, and on the occasion of his 80th birthday, I thank him for all he has done, and all he will continue to do, to advance both the world of music and the capacity of the human spirit.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTHY WORKFORCE ACT OF 2009, WHICH WOULD AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO PROVIDE A TAX CREDIT TO EMPLOYERS FOR THE COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING WELLNESS PROGRAMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Healthy Workforce Act of 2009. In order to alleviate our public health crisis, we must make it easier for Americans to make small, easy choices that improve their overall health. With many Americans spending more than half of their day at work, it makes sense to encourage our places of employment to offer the information, opportunities and support they need to make healthy choices.

The Healthy Workforce Act provides companies with an up to fifty percent tax credit for implementing employee wellness programs. These programs can include, but are not limited to, health education or health risk assessments, behavioral change programs that encourage healthy lifestyles, such as classes on nutrition or smoking cessation, and to support environment changes to encourage employee participation. Programs like this have a myriad of positive benefits for personal health, employee productivity, workplace environment and the economy.

There can be no doubt that America is facing a public health crisis: 63 percent of Americans are overweight and 31 percent are obese. Even more alarming, according to the Surgeon General, obesity is responsible for 300,000 deaths per year. This crisis not only impacts the daily lives of many Americans, but the bottom line for American companies. Average employer medical costs increased 72 percent between 2000 and 2006, with some companies spending more than fifty percent of their profits on employee health care expenses. Employers are increasingly bearing the costs of diet-related chronic disease and obesity through employer-provided health care plans and indirectly through higher rates of absenteeism, decreased productivity and higher health care costs. Obesity related health conditions cost employers approximately \$33 billion in health care and other indirect costs.

The Healthy Workforce Act of 2009 will make it easier for companies to encourage their employees to make healthy decisions and in turn, decrease health care costs for employers, employees, and taxpayers.

BIG GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday, The Post and Courier, of Charleston, S.C., reviewed the intervention of government in the management of General Motors. I share the editorial opinion that dismissal of business executives is not a proper function of government personnel.

EDITORIAL

President Obama fired General Motors Chief Executive Officer Rick Wagoner over the weekend, ostensibly due to his failure to come up with a "plan" acceptable to the administration. If he hadn't cleaned out his desk and surrendered his key to the executive washroom, he was told there would be no more taxpayer dollars to keep GM afloat.

CEOs of other corporations taking federal bailout money surely have taken note. The stock market certainly did when the news hit.

If you are not worried by the Obama administration's audacious grab for the commanding heights of the U.S. economy—the banks, the insurance industry, the giant too-big-to-fail manufacturers—you should be. Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner even suggests that government takeover of private corporations that have not accepted federal loans would be warranted, if considered necessary to rescue the overall economy.

The question boils down to this: Would it have been better to let well-established bankruptcy law apply to GM (and other failing corporate giants) rather than suffer Washington's continued exertions on its behalf.

Or, to put it another way, would you like your next car designed in Washington rather than in Detroit?

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, consistent with the House Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, to the best of my knowledge the requests I have detailed below (1) are not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; and (2) are not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark. As required by earmark standards adopted by the House Republican Conference, I submit the following information on projects I requested and were included in H.R. 1105, The Omnibus Appropriations Act, FY 2009.

Account: USDA—Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

Project Title: Grass Seed Cropping Systems for Sustainable Agriculture (OR, ID, WA)

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity:

Oregon State University, College of Agricultural Sciences, 138 Strand Hall, Corvallis, OR 97731

Project Location: Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$313,000 for the Grass Seed Cropping Systems for Sustainable Agriculture project in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Oregon State University has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used cooperatively between research and extension faculty from the three states, scientists from the USDA's National Forage Seed Production Research Center, and USDA's Agriculture Research Service to maintain a sustainable grass seed cropping industry in the Pacific Northwest at a time when the grass seed industry faces some critical environ-

mental and economic challenges including public pressure to phase out open-field burning.

Account: USDA—Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

Project Title: Northwest Multi-commodity Marketing Special Research Grant

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity:

Oregon State University, College of Agricultural Sciences, 138 Strand Hall, Corvallis, OR 97731

Project Location: Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$244,000 for a special research grant program that enhances competitiveness and expands the economic value-added component in Oregon agricultural products through research and outreach in food processing, product development, business strategy, marketing, and consumer testing. Oregon State University has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used to conduct research to support food processing and food product development, investigate consumer perceptions of product quality and value, and evaluate marketing and food industry strategies.

Account: USDA—Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

Project Title: Organic Cropping Research for the Northwest

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity:

Oregon State University, College of Agricultural Sciences, 138 Strand Hall, Corvallis, OR 97731

Project Location: Oregon and Washington

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$140,000 to Organic Cropping Research for the Northwest. Oregon State University has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be help expand the research, education, and extension activities at Oregon State University with a primary focus on the development and implementation of sustainable organic farming systems for higher rainfall locations in the Cascadia bioregion in the states of Oregon and Washington. Oregon's organic agriculture industry will benefit from research directed at problems facing organic commodities and, ultimately, enhance competitiveness of Oregon's organic agriculture products. In Oregon, 357 certified organic farms generate more than \$52.1 million in organic products from approximately 59,200 certified acres. Oregon's strong agricultural infrastructure and unique climate make Oregon's agriculture uniquely positioned to grow dramatically in its market share of organic dairy and meat, tree fruits, specialty seed, berry crops, and processed and fresh market vegetables.

Account: USDA—Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

Project Title: Potato Research (OR, ID, WA, and other states)

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity:

Oregon State University, College of Agricultural Sciences, 138 Strand Hall, Corvallis, OR 97731

Project Location: Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and other states

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$1,037,000 for a research program which is operated jointly by an entity known as Tri-State, which includes: USDA-ARS, Washington State University, Oregon State University, and the University of Idaho. Oregon State

University has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be split equally between the four Tri-State partners and used for research and development of new potato varieties. The Tri-State program is considered to be one of the most elite variety development programs in the world.

Account: USDA—Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

Project Title: Regional Barley Genome Mapping (many states)

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity:

Oregon State University, College of Agricultural Sciences, 138 Strand Hall, Corvallis, OR 97731

Project Location: Many states

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$471,000 to continue funding the United States Barley Genome Project (USBGP). Oregon State University has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used to continue the project's long-term goal of enhancing the profitability and sustainability of U.S. agriculture by achieving a complete understanding of the gene networks that determine economically important traits in barley. The rationale behind understanding gene networks is that knowledge regarding the number, location, sequence, expression, regulation, and interaction of genes will allow plant breeders to more efficiently develop barley varieties.

Account: USDA—Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

Project Title: Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Oregon State University, College of Agricultural Sciences, 138 Strand Hall, Corvallis, OR 97731

Project Location: Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$307,000 for the Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research. Oregon State University has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used to fund extension, education, and cooperative research activities on peer reviewed small fruits research project proposals that will enhance profitability and sustainability of the small fruits industry in the Pacific Northwest. This funding supports critical aspects of the center not supported by USDAARS funds.

Account: USDA—Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

Project Title: Solutions to Environmental and Economic Problems (STEEP) (OR, ID, WA)

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Oregon State University, College of Agricultural Sciences, 138 Strand Hall, Corvallis, OR 97731

Project Location: Oregon, Idaho, and Washington

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$444,000 for Solutions to Environmental and Economic Problems (STEEP). Oregon State University has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used for this program which provides a base for an agricultural research and extension education partnership to address production and environmental issues in cereal cropping systems throughout the Pacific Northwest. The partnership with producers, in-

dustry, USDA—ARS, NRCS, conservation districts, and university research and extension personnel enhances programs on: conservation of soil quality; evaluation of reduced pesticide use and other alternatives for crop protection; management options that substitute for residue requirements in farm plans; and on-farm testing. General program objectives are: determining impact of farming practices on soil, water, and air quality; improving profitability of conservation farming systems; facilitating production of biofuels, increasing carbon sequestration and reducing greenhouse gases; developing crop varieties better suited to planting in conservation farming systems; identifying alternative crops for conservation farming systems in the PNW; increasing the no-till acreage in the PNW; and accelerating adoption of profitable conservation farming systems.

Account: Department of Commerce; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Operations, Research and Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oregon State University

Address of Requesting Entity: Oregon State University, Attn: Larry Curtis, Associate Dean, 138 Strand Hall, Corvallis, OR 97731,

Project Location: Corvallis, Oregon

Rep. Walden Statement for the Congressional Record H.R. 1105, April 2, 2009—Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$640,000 to research management actions to reduce disease (ceratomyxosis) in juvenile salmon in the Klamath River. Research will be conducted through controlled laboratory and field experiments. OSU has stated that all of the appropriated funds will go toward project coordination, laboratory and field studies, field assistance, and website development for information dissemination.

Account: Department of Justice; COPS; Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Medford, Oregon

Address of Requesting Entity: City of Medford, Attn: Bill Hoke, Dpty. City Manager 411 West 8th Street, Medford, Oregon

Project Location: Medford, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$700,000 for the Jackson County, Oregon Consolidated 911 Dispatch Center. The project will consolidated Jackson County, Oregon's two existing 911/emergency dispatch centers into one facility which will improve coordination and interoperability among emergency response agencies, improve call processing times and decrease response times. The City of Medford has stated that the appropriated funds will go toward the purchase of dispatch consoles, computer equipment and software, costs associated with connectivity of current communications tower and new facility.

Account: Department of Justice; Office of Justice Programs; Byrne Discretionary Grants. Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oregon Health and Science University Address of Requesting Entity: Oregon Health and Science University, 3181 Sam Jackson Park Rd, Portland, OR 97239

Project Location: Portland, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$200,000 to the Multidisciplinary Institute for Neuropsychiatric Diagnosis to develop evidence-based medical diagnosis and treatment for psychiatric disorders that may be triggered by use of methamphetamine. OHSU has stated that all of the appropriated funds

will go toward salary for MD and PhD scientists, research equipment and the salary for a clinical coordinator.

Account: Department of Justice; OJP; Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oregon Health and Sciences University

Address of Requesting Entity: Wasco County, Oregon, Attn: Steve Conover, Wasco Co Sheriffs Dpt. 511 Washington, Ste 102, The Dalles, Oregon

Project Location: Portland, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$300,000 for the Wasco County, Oregon Interoperability 911 Center. The project will relocate the County's Emergency Operations Center and equip it with hardware that will provide additional data capacity and communications equipment that meets interoperability requirements of local, state and federal agencies. Wasco County, Oregon has stated that the appropriated funds will go toward relocation costs and the purchase of emergency communications equipment.

Account: EPA—STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Project Name: Milton-Freewater Stormwater Treatment Plant Construction Project

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity:

Umatilla County, Oregon Attn: Hulette M. Johnson, 216 SE 4th Street, Pendleton, OR 97801

Project Location: The City of Milton-Freewater, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$300,000 for the Milton-Freewater for Stormwater Treatment Plant Construction Project to be located in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. Umatilla County has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used by the City of Milton-Freewater to assist in development of storm water treatment system which will result in increased clean drinking water for the local community. Funds provided will enable the community to construct a holding pond to catch silt-laden storm and winter water run off which currently clogs the drainage system and deposits silt into drinking water wells.

Account: US Forest Service—Land Acquisition

Project Name: Columbia River Gorge Land Acquisition

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Columbia River Gorge Commission, Attn: Jill Arens, Executive Director, 1 Town & Country Square, 57 NE Wauna Avenue, White Salmon, WA 98672

Project Location: Columbia River Gorge, Oregon and Washington

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$2 million for Columbia River Gorge Land Acquisitions in Oregon and Washington. The Columbia River Gorge Commission has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to purchase those remaining parcels of land with signed options that were offered by landowners by March of 2004 under Section 8(o) of the National Scenic Area Act but never acquired by the USFS. The purchase of these remaining properties would finally fulfill the federal government's commitment to these individuals.

Account: Corps of Engineers Construction

Project Name: Columbia River Channel Improvements, OR and WA

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Columbia River Channel Coalition, Attn: Dave Hunt, Executive Director, PO Box 903, Clackamas, OR 97015

Project Location: Columbia River in Oregon and Washington

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$34.451 million for the Columbia River Channel Improvements, OR and WA. The Columbia River Channel Coalition has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project, which were also included in the President's FY 2009 budget, will be used by the Corps to complete all of the dredging and environmental features of the Columbia River deep-draft navigation channel to a new depth of 43-feet. The channel deepening is economically vital to the Nation and to the Pacific Northwest because each year, \$16 billion in exports and imports are transported via the Columbia River.

Account: Corps of Engineers—Construction
Project Name: Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites, OR and WA

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, PO Box 638, Pendleton, OR 97801

Project Location: Celilo Village in Oregon and other sites along the Columbia River, OR and WA

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$5.125 million for the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites, OR and WA. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used to complete the Celilo Village Redevelopment Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Site construction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The President's FY 2009 budget also included funds to complete this project. This site is likely the single most prominent Native American site along the Lewis and Clark Trail, and the present day Village denotes an important and significant way-point for Lewis and Clark among the large Native American fishing and trading community at Celilo on the banks of the Columbia River.

Account: Department of Energy—EERE
Project Name: Columbia Gorge Community College Wind Energy Workforce Training Nacelle

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Columbia Gorge Community College Attn: Dan Spatz, Chief of Institutional Advancement, 400 East Scenic Drive, The Dalles, OR 97058

Project Location: The City of The Dalles, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$237,875 for the Columbia Gorge Community College Wind Energy Workforce Training Nacelle. Columbia Gorge Community College has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used to acquire and place a wind turbine nacelle on its campus to provide hands-on, real-world training to complement the classroom and shop training currently offered by the community college. In 2007, Columbia Gorge Community College established the first program of its kind on the West Coast for wind turbine technician training.

Account: Department of Energy—EERE
Project Name: Geothermal Power Generation Plant (OR)

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Oregon Institute of Technology, Attn: John

Lund, Director of the Geo-Heat Center 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Project Location: Klamath Falls, Oregon
Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$1,522,400 for the Geothermal Power Generation Plant at Oregon Institute of Technology. Oregon Institute of Technology has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used to help construct a high-temperature geothermal power plant on the Oregon Institute of Technology campus. The plant would provide 100% of the electricity demand on campus and would be the first geothermal power plant in Oregon.

Account: Department of Energy—EERE
Project Name: Wave Energy Research and Demonstration Center (OR)

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Oregon State University, Attn: Annette von Jouanne, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, 3027 Kelley Engineering Center, Corvallis, OR 97331

Project Location: Corvallis, Oregon and near the City of Newport, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$2,331,180 for the Wave Energy Research and Demonstration Center to be co-located in Corvallis, Oregon at Oregon State University and near the City of Newport, Oregon. Oregon State University has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used to establish the National Wave Energy Center, which will provide an in-water infrastructure of up to five test berths approximately two miles offshore that will be available to industry and public entities to test wave energy generation devices. Research will emphasize developing high quality wave energy generation systems that are efficient, durable in hazardous ocean conditions, reliable and easily maintained.

Account: Corps of Engineers—Investigations
Project Name: Walla Walla River Watershed OR and WA

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Attn: Rick George, Manager, PO Box 638, Pendleton, OR 97801

Project Location: Walla Walla River Watershed located in Oregon and Washington

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$295,000 for the Walla Walla River Watershed Investigations in Oregon and Washington. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to initiate the Preconstruction Engineering and Design phase of the Walla Walla River Basin project based on the findings and recommendations of a Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement.

Account: Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources

Project Name: Burnt, Malheur, Owyhee, and Powder River Basin Water Opt. Feas. Study

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Powder Basin Water and Stream Health Committee, Attn: Peggy S. Browne—Coordinator, 1995 3rd Street, Baker City, OR 97814

Project Location: Baker and Union Counties, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$145,000 for the Burnt, Malheur, Owyhee, and Powder River Basin Water Optimization and Feasibility Study. Powder Basin

Water and Stream Health Committee has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be spent on a feasibility study for the project to address the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental criteria of specific water storage sites in the Powder Basin. Funding authorization for this project "appropriated such sums as are necessary" in the Burnt, Malheur, Owyhee, and Powder River Basin Water Optimization Feasibility Study Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-237). The project will ultimately benefit fish and aquatic ecosystems, wildlife and terrestrial ecosystems, agriculture, energy and municipalities in the Powder River Basin.

Account: Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources

Project Name: Deschutes Project (Water conservation)

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Deschutes Basin Board of Control, Attn: Steve Johnson, Chairman, 1055 SW Lake Court, Redmond, OR 97756

Project Location: Deschutes Basin, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$350,000 for Water Conservation in the Deschutes Project. Deschutes Basin Board of Control has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used by the Deschutes Basin Board of Control, which consists of the seven primary irrigation districts in Central Oregon, to pursue water conservation, piping, lining and efficiency projects that will improve irrigation efficiencies, and result in increased in-stream flows benefiting federally listed steelhead and bull trout in the Deschutes and Crooked Rivers and their tributaries.

Account: Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources

Project Name: Savage Rapids Dam Removal

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Grants Pass Irrigation District, Attn: Dan Shepard, Manager, 200 Fruitdale Drive, Grants Pass, OR 97527

Project Location: Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River in Oregon.

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$3 million to the Bureau of Reclamation for the Savage Rapids Dam Removal project. Grants Pass Irrigation District has confirmed in their justification that the appropriated funds for this project will be used to finalize construction of the Savage Rapids Pumping Plant located in the Rogue River Basin in Oregon, authorized by P.L. 108-137.

Account: Small Business Administration
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Oregon

Address of Requesting Entity: University of Oregon, 203 Johnson Hall, Eugene, OR 97403

Description of Project: The University of Oregon confirms that this funding will be used for the University of Oregon Integrative Science Complex Phase II. This funding will be used for systems (e.g. oversize freight elevator, crane system, and/or connections to adjacent buildings) to ensure delivery of major scientific equipment to all levels of the building. In order to carry out the previously stated objectives, the University of Oregon has provided the following budget and funding breakdown for the \$100,000 provided for the project in H.R. 1105: to build a permanent crane system to move high tech instrumentation between laboratories (budget is based on a crane system

serving five levels)—\$45,000 for a crane and hoist, \$40,000 for gates/landings on 4 levels, and \$15,000 for design, permits, etc.

Account: Interstate Maintenance Discretionary

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oregon Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: Oregon Department of Transportation, 355 Capitol Street NE, Room 135, Salem, OR 97301

Description of Project: The Oregon Department of Transportation confirms that it will use this funding to provide a separate lane for trucks to climb the Three Mile Hill section of I-84 near the City of Ontario in Malheur County, Oregon. In order to carry out the previously stated objective, the Oregon Department of Transportation has provided the following budget and funding breakdown for the \$475,000 provided for the project in H.R. 1105: the \$475,000 will supplement the funding currently dedicated to the project and complete the funding necessary to build the truck lane.

Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Deschutes County, Oregon

Address of Requesting Entity: Deschutes County, Oregon, 61150 SE 27th Street, Bend, Oregon 97702

Description of Project: Deschutes County, Oregon confirms that it will use this funding for the 19th Street Extension from Redmond to Deschutes Junction. This funding will be used to construct six miles of new road to provide improved access to the Redmond Airport, Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, and the rapidly growing southeast side of Redmond. In order to carry out the previously stated objectives, Deschutes County has provided the following budget and funding breakdown for the \$570,000 provided for the project in H.R. 1105: \$570,000 for preliminary engineering and possibly right of way acquisition.

Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oregon Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: Oregon Department of Transportation, 355 Capitol Street NE, Room 135, Salem, OR 97301

Description of Project: The Oregon Department of Transportation confirms that it will use this funding for Highway 140 Freight Improvements. This will realign the intersection of Kirtland and Blackwell roads in Jackson County, Oregon so through traffic does not have to stop. In order to carry out the previously stated objectives, the Oregon Department of Transportation has provided the following budget and funding breakdown for the \$95,000 provided for the project in H.R. 1105: \$95,000 to complete the funding necessary to build the realignment.

Account: Economic Development Initiatives
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Hermiston, Oregon

Address of Requesting Entity: Attn: Mayor Robert E. Severson, City of Hermiston 180 NE 2nd Street, Hermiston, Oregon 97838

Description of Project: The City of Hermiston confirms that it will use this funding for the Northeastern Oregon Business and Economic Growth Project's Eastern Oregon Regional University Center in Hermiston, Oregon, to construct a learning center to accommodate 500 students and provide them

courses in business, technology, science, nursing, and other allied health professions, education, and the liberal arts taught by faculty from Eastern Oregon University and Blue Mountain Community College. In order to carry out the previously stated objectives, the City of Hermiston has provided the following budget and funding breakdown for the \$142,500 provided for the project in H.R. 1105: \$142,500 will go towards construction of the learning center.

Account: Department of Education; Higher Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oregon Institute of Technology

Address of Requesting Entity: Oregon Institute of Technology, Attn: Michael Kirshner, Center for Health Professions, 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Project Location: Klamath Falls, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$285,000 for the OIT Center for Health Professions Health Informatics Simulation Lab to purchase software and equipment to administer real-life training for clinical information management, electronic medical records storage/maintenance/use, picture archiving communication systems and laboratory information systems. Students will receive hands-on experience with sophisticated technology for careers in health professions. OIT has stated that all of the appropriated funds will go toward equipment purchase.

Account: Department of Education; Higher Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Portland State University

Address of Requesting Entity: Portland State University, Attn: Dr. Lindsay Desrochers, VP of Finance and Administration, PO Box 751, Portland, OR 97201

Project Location: Portland, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$333,000 for the establishment of the PSU Science Research and Teaching Center that will focus on ways to improve science education at the university and K-12 level and will be a site for continuing education programs for K-12 science teachers. PSU has stated that all of the appropriated funds will go toward lab and research equipment purchase.

Account: Department of Health and Human Services; Administration on Children and Families; Social Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Deschutes County, Oregon

Address of Requesting Entity: Deschutes County, Oregon, Attn: Hilary Saraceno, Director, Commission on Children and Families 1300 NW Wall St, Suite, 200, Bend, OR 97701

Project Location: Bend, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$238,000 to expand the reach of the Family Access Network to connect 4,250 additional children and their family members with support services including counseling, clothing and food assistance, medication, after-school programs and shelter. Deschutes County, Oregon has stated that the appropriated funds will go toward program administration and service coordinator salaries.

Account: Department of Health and Human Services; Health Resources and Services Administration; Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Hood River County, Oregon

Address of Requesting Entity: Hood River County, Oregon, Attn: David Meriwether,

County Administrator, 601 State Street Hood River, OR 97031

Project Location: Cascade Locks, Oregon
Description of Project: H.R. 1105 appropriates \$143,000 for development of an integrated health care facility to provide basic medical, public health, mental health, dental and pharmaceutical services to the community of Cascade Locks, Oregon and adjacent community of Stevenson, Washington which currently have no such services. Health care services will be delivered through collaboration between Hood River County, Oregon and three non-profit health care providers. Hood River County, Oregon has stated that all of the appropriated funds will go towards making site improvements and utility upgrades to the property where the facility will be built.

THE CHILD HEALTHCARE CRISIS RELIEF ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Child Healthcare Crisis Relief Act. This legislation addresses the critical mental health needs of our children, and shortage of providers available to meet those needs.

In 1999, then Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher noted the crisis faced by our Nation's children who suffer from mental illness. According to this report, one out of every five children in America suffers from a diagnosable mental disorder, yet only one-third of them receive mental healthcare treatment. Part of the reason for this alarming statistic is that mental health services specific to children are in very short supply.

That is why today Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and I are introducing the Child Healthcare Crisis Relief Act. This is a bill designed to help alleviate the scarcity of mental health services for our Nation's youth by providing incentives for mental healthcare workers to specialize in the treatment of children and adolescents.

The Child Healthcare Crisis Relief Act creates incentives to help recruit and retain child mental health professionals providing direct clinical care, and to improve, expand, or help create programs to train child mental health professionals by establishing:

Loan repayment and scholarships for child mental health and school-based service professionals to help pay back educational loans;

Grants to graduate schools to provide for internships and field placements in child mental health services;

Grants to help with pre-service and in-service training of paraprofessionals who work in clinical mental health settings for children; and

Grants to graduate schools to help develop and expand child and adolescent mental health programs.

This bill also allows for an increase in the number of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists under the Medicare Graduate Medical Education Program and extends the board eligibility period for residents and fellows from four years to six years.

The Child Healthcare Crisis Relief Act is not only about providing incentives for health care

workers, it is also a bill about expanding treatment options for children in need. Expanding treatment options expands the opportunities for children with mental health concerns and allows them to grow and become happy and productive members of our society.

The hope and the potential for endless possibilities that we, as a people, attribute to children are diminished with each child who struggles with mental illness and who does not receive adequate treatment. I, therefore, ask my colleagues to lend their support for my Child Healthcare Crisis Relief Act.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1256, the "Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act."

This bill will provide the FDA with the authority to restrict the marketing and sale of tobacco products, prohibit false or misleading product claims, and establish tougher tobacco product standards to better protect the public health. It also requires premarket approval of all new tobacco products and sets forth new, stronger standards for warning labels.

Although we've known about the dangers of tobacco use for decades, smoking remains alarmingly common among our Nation's youth. Every day 1,000 youths become regular, daily smokers, and almost 80 percent of new tobacco product users were underage when they started smoking.

Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in our country and, according to the Institute of Medicine, accounts for more deaths than AIDS, alcohol, cocaine, heroin, homicide, suicide, motor vehicle crashes, and fires combined. Furthermore, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that cigarette smoking costs over \$193 billion per year in health care costs and lost productivity.

We cannot allow tobacco companies to continue to engage in underhanded product design, marketing, and sales tactics directed toward our children. Stemming the tide of underage smoking will improve our public health, lower our Nation's health care spending, and cut down on preventable deaths. This bill is a significant step forward in the fight against underage smoking, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, I was not present for rollcall vote 170.

Had I been present for rollcall 170, H.R. 577, the Vision Care for Kids Act of 2009, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF TEMPIE LYNN ARMSTRONG PATRIOT AND VETERANS' ADVOCATE

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional American, Ms. Tempie Lynn Armstrong, who suddenly passed from us on January 27, 2009.

Born February 22, 1967 to Paul and Sara Jane Armstrong as their youngest of 5 children, she was raised with her sisters Patricia, and Jeanie and brothers David and Paul in Wagontown, Pa. Tempie and her siblings were very close and loved each other dearly. Her relationship with Jeanie was the closest of all. There were so inseparable, they were frequently considered to be twins. Each was always there for the other through good times and bad. Their lives traveled parallel paths and their love for one another is eternal.

Tempie also had great affection for, and took enormous pride in, her nephews and nieces, Bryan, Paul Jr, Michael, Amanda and Emily. Her relationship with each was loving and unique. However, as Tempie, Jeanie, Donald and Bryan all shared the same home she had a special relationship with Bryan and was always certain that he would be grow to become a truly great man.

A 1985 graduate of Coatesville Area High School, Tempie was a very good student. While in high school, she entered into a work study program at Coatesville Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC). Immediately, she knew that she wanted a career in the Veterans Administration helping those extraordinary men and women in their time of need. She fulfilled that ambition and in twenty-five years of honorable service with our government, she proudly served thousands of hospitalized veterans and their families. Her colleagues would often hear Tempie cheering up Veterans by joking with them about her cats "Phil and Lil", and her dogs "Bear, Maggie, and Rupert". Her love of animals was just behind that of her family 'her Vets'.

For the past seventeen years, she served as the Administrative Support Assistant for the Coatesville VAMC Community and Congressional Affairs office. In that capacity she worked very closely with her supervisor and true friend, Andy Pahountis. The two of them fought tirelessly to meet the daily needs of our nation's Veterans. In addition to their considerable responsibilities at the medical center they also created a superior outreach program to make the public aware of the worthy mission and noble patients of Coatesville VAMC. The love and respect they had for each other was unsurpassed. Tempie was also a close friend to Andy's wife, Carole and considered part of the family by Andy's children Leah and Gregory. Together they spent countless hours at the beach along with Andy's Labrador retrievers Maddie and Lexy. Their friendship will never be forgotten and always treasured.

For the past eight years she was the hub of the Coatesville VAMC community. Her relationships with her friends and co-workers, Jack, John, Jeff, Judi, Wayne, and many others were founded on mutual respect and affection. She worked very closely with Congressional Offices in Pennsylvania, New Jer-

sey and Delaware as well as dozens of Veteran Service Organizations. Everyone who worked with Tempie knew they could depend on her.

Madam Speaker, tragically and unexpectedly, Tempie Lynn Armstrong died recently during surgery for a cardiac condition. When she passed there was great sorrow throughout the proud Coatesville VAMC and among thousands of patients past and present. There, life without Tempie will never be the same. I ask that this chamber pause and join Veterans and their families everywhere in acknowledging the many contributions made by Tempie Armstrong to her family and friends, our Veterans and our nation. We have lost a great American.

WILLARD V. MEYER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Willard V. Meyer of Zion Lutheran Church in Bethalto. Pastor Meyer is retiring after 40 years of ministry. Thirty years of his ministry has been served at Zion Lutheran Church.

Pastor Meyer started his service at Zion Lutheran Church as the Youth Minister and later became the Senior Minister. Pastor Meyer, and his wife Stephanie, are well loved by their congregation and his service will be missed.

As the church is celebrating their sesquicentennial this year, Pastor Meyer was quoted in The Telegraph saying,—"Although many, significant, and profound changes have taken place at Zion over these 150 years, what has been constant and unchanging are the proclamation of the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and the ministry of sharing that love of Christ throughout the community and the world." Pastor Meyer's remarks could have well been said about his own ministry, constantly proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Meyer's words also bring to mind Colossians 3:23-24, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." For the last 40 years, this could be said of Pastor Meyer's ministry as well.

I praise God for Pastor Meyers 40 years of service to Him. I extend my best wishes to Pastor Meyer for an enjoyable retirement celebration on April 19, 2009. May God richly bless him and his family in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PSI GAMMA CHAPTER OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY IN KENT, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the Psi Gamma Chapter of the

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, a proud heritage reflecting four decades of leadership, service, unity, academic achievement and pride.

In March of 1968, the first young men were initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at Kent State University. On April 1, 1969, the Psi Gamma Chapter was chartered at Kent State University. The '68 founding line, the Devine 9, built a foundation of brotherhood and social action, taking up the torch that their brothers carried before them. In 1969, the Defiant 9 were the first bloodline to form at Psi Gamma Chapter at Kent State University, living up to their name as leaders in defiance of social injustice, ignorance and racism, and champions of the Four Cardinal Principles: Manhood, Scholarship, Uplift and Perseverance.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity of Kent State University collectively stands on the courageous shoulders of the young men of Howard University in Washington, DC, where the first young black men united in brotherhood and in their universal goal of advancement, civil rights and opportunity for all.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every member and leader of the Psi Gamma Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at Kent State University, as we join them in celebrating forty years of young black men in brotherhood, service to others and action for the cause of civil rights. The young black men of Psi Gamma Chapter, and the young black men of black fraternities across the country, were a critical influence in the changing course of race in America—and continue to serve as a force of advancement, hope and change—one young man, one chapter at a time. This brotherhood, fortified with an education and unified agenda proudly raised the torch of freedom and the hope for justice and liberty for all, paving the way for civil and human rights and changing the social landscape of our nation forever—from the Psi Gamma Chapter House of Kent State University, to the White House of Washington, DC.

HONORING MARY BARCIKOWSKI

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mrs. Mary Barcikowski, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council. Mary has been selected to receive this award because of her volunteer service at the VA, based on her outstanding dedication to serving the needs of veterans within her community.

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have dedicated themselves to protecting the lives of every American. Their service to our Nation deserves the highest level of gratitude. It is of the utmost importance that we take the time to recognize the individuals who give of their time and talents to support veterans and ensure their comfort, care, and well-being.

Mrs. Barcikowski is the Business Manager of Public and Community Relations at the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation and Extended Care

Center (BRECC). Throughout her years of service as an employee of the VA, she has served as the Coordinator of Voluntary Services at the BRECC, and has been employed at Perry Point VA Medical Center. Despite obligations to her family and her ailing father, Mary has given time and money to support veterans on several occasions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mrs. Mary Barcikowski. Her compassion and dedication to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces has become an inspiration to us all, and is deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mary on her exemplary service as an advocate and a volunteer.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 85) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 and 2011 through 2014:

Mr. KIND. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 85, the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2010.

Budgets are all about priorities. This budget makes it clear that the priorities of this Congress are the priorities of the American people. During the greatest economic crisis our country has seen in a generation, the budget before us starts us on a pathway to recovery.

The resolution makes critical investments in education, health care reform, and energy independence that are necessary to restore our economy and put the country in a position to remain globally competitive. Additionally, the budget begins the tough work of returning to responsible fiscal policies.

This budget builds off of the strong commitment Congress made earlier this year in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which provided approximately \$53 billion for the Department of Education, with further support for early childhood education, the tools to achieve high standards for elementary and secondary school students, and efforts to help more Americans obtain a college degree. By investing in our children, we are investing in our future and the prosperity of our country.

I remain convinced that in order to turn our country's economy around, we must transform our outdated, inefficient, and costly health care system. This budget commits to doing so. Not only does the budget resolution make critical investments in medical research and innovation, it also provides a framework for comprehensive health reform. I look forward to working with the Speaker to achieve this critical goal.

It is clear that if our country wants to remain competitive, modernizing our health care system is not our only challenge. We also must reduce our dependence on foreign oil. This addiction does not just undermine our national

security, but it threatens our environment. The energy challenges our country faces are severe and have gone unaddressed for far too long. Although there were significant investments and tax incentives made in ARRA, this budget goes further by supporting more renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. Finally, the budget includes instructions on legislation that will promote energy independence over the long run.

Finally, and most importantly, this budget cuts the deficit in half in just over four years. In 2001, the previous Administration inherited record budget surpluses—\$5.6 trillion projected over ten years—but squandered it all and more, leaving a record deficit of over \$1 trillion for 2009 alone. The President did a very tough and honorable thing this year when he presented his budget to Congress with an honest assessment of our financial situation, marking a return to budgeting and fiscal responsibility principles that will help get our fiscal house back in order.

Serious and swift government action was absolutely needed at the beginning of the year to help put our economy on the road to recovery, but now that ARRA has passed it is equally as important to start addressing unfunded obligations we will have down the road. I have long been a proponent of a fiscal commission to examine our long term fiscal obligations and make legislative recommendations to Congress. I fully supported the bipartisan budget summit earlier this year and was happy to participate in the meetings. I know the President is as committed to this issue as I am and I look forward to working with him further on solving our long term fiscal challenges. This budget is a good step in the right direction.

The Budget Resolution before us today makes the tough decisions to get our economy and country back on track. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this common sense responsible Budget Resolution.

EDWARD M. KENNEDY SERVE
AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, Americans have a long history of volunteerism to better their communities and help their fellow citizens. Benjamin Franklin created one of the first volunteer fire departments in Philadelphia in 1736. In 1881, Clara Barton created the American Red Cross to provide assistance in response to disasters. Six years later, the first United Way was created in Denver to help plan and coordinate local charitable services. In each case, people sacrificed their time and money for a cause in which they believed. This model has not only served our nation well for over 250 years, but has also taught generations of Americans the value of sacrificial actions. The vast majority of charitable programs still operate with great success using unpaid volunteers.

After centuries, some now believe that government should take over this practice and pay people to "volunteer." In 1993, AmeriCorps was created, implementing this

backwards notion. Today's bill, H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act, continues this failed policy of "paid volunteerism."

I oppose H.R. 1388. When the government pays "volunteers" and determines which programs will benefit, this sends the wrong message. "Paid volunteerism" cheapens the honest efforts of millions of people who volunteer at their local church, food bank, or after-school program. It teaches future generations that volunteerism should result in material reward. The basic principles of volunteerism are lost.

"Paid volunteerism" also picks winners and losers among charities—allowing the government, instead of the American people, to determine which charities hold value in our society. H.R. 1388 allows politically motivated liberal organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, Legal Services Association, and ACORN, to receive "paid volunteers" to advance their radical agenda.

Not only does H.R. 1388 distort the value of volunteerism, but it proposes spending \$6 billion over five years to expand and authorize programs that have been audited and considered ineffective by the Office of Management and Budget. In a time of spiraling deficits, I believe we must look for ways to cut the deficit—not increase it with wasteful programs.

I am proud that America is the most compassionate and generous nation in the world. Our shared value of giving back to our communities has made this nation great. Encouraging volunteerism is a wonderful thing for our people and society. H.R. 1388, unfortunately, does the opposite. Therefore, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in opposing this legislation and upholding the principles of charity.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support of H.R. 1256, the "Family Smoking Prevention And Tobacco Control Act."

I feel strongly about the dangers of cigarettes and the need for regulation by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The dangers of smoking are well known—about one in five deaths in the United States can be attributed to tobacco products, which adds up to 440,000 Americans killed every year. Another 50,000 people die every year from second-hand smoke. Many of these deaths are linked to the thousands of harmful chemical compounds in every cigarette, including benzene, arsenic, formaldehyde, and ammonia.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the H.R. 1256. This legislation would require the regulation of tobacco products by the FDA. This legislation would also require cigarette manufacturers to print warning labels with text warnings detailing the smoking related diseases such as lung, heart, or mouth cancer. The warning labels are required to occupy 30 percent of the front and rear panels of a cigarette package, carton, or advertisement.

Unfortunately, the lack of sufficient regulatory authority means that while the FDA works to keep harmful chemicals out of every-

day food products, they have no ability to do the same with cigarettes. This bill, which enjoys the support of almost 700 public health groups, faith associations, and other organizations from around the country, would ensure that consumers are adequately informed about the real risks of tobacco use and protected from misleading advertising.

I have long supported giving the FDA clear authority to regulate cigarettes and other tobacco products and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation granting them such authority.

CONGRATULATING BOONE COUNTY ON THE OPENING OF A NEW JAIL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT FACILITY

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the citizens of Boone County, Arkansas on the opening of a new Jail and Law Enforcement Facility.

As Boone County has grown over the decades, the need for a modern jail and law enforcement facility became apparent. Ground was broken for this 27,000 square-foot building in August 2007, and less than 2 years later we have an excellent facility that will help us in the fight to keep the county safe. The people of Boone County should be proud of their new facility.

Thanks is due to my friends Sheriff Danny Hickman and Judge Mike Moore for their leadership, and to the Quorum Court and other elected officials for their hard work. Also, a local ¼ cent sales tax increase was passed to fund construction of this facility, so it is proper to acknowledge that the taxpayers are truly the ones who have enabled the construction of this facility.

We all know and understand that law enforcement is vital to keeping our homes secure, our streets safe, and communities prosperous. This new facility would not have been built without the efforts of everyone working together, and they have my congratulations.

HONORING SUSAN KERN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mrs. Susan Kern, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council. Susan has been selected to receive this award because of her volunteer service at the VA, based on her outstanding dedication to serving the needs of veterans within her community.

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have dedicated themselves to protecting the lives of every American. Their service to our Nation deserves the highest level of gratitude. It is of the utmost importance that we take the time to recognize the individuals who give of

their time and talents to support veterans and ensure their comfort, care, and well-being.

Mrs. Kern is the Program Manager for Voluntary Services at the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation and Extended Care Center. Throughout her years of service as an employee of the VA, she has consistently gone out of her way to become an advocate for veterans. She has traveled to various events to speak on behalf of veterans, and has arranged extra times for volunteers to get identification badges. Volunteers must go through a certification process including an exam in order to give of their time. Susan has gone out of her way to make sure every volunteer has the opportunity to take the exam at a convenient time. Because of her commitment, more people are able to become volunteers at the VA.

Despite having a family and many personal obligations, Mrs. Kern does most of these activities outside of work, on her own time.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mrs. Susan Kern. Her compassion and dedication to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces has become an inspiration to us all, and is deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mrs. Kern on her exemplary service as an advocate and a volunteer.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF VIJAYA EMANI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Vijaya Emani, a profoundly respected and well known leader throughout Northeast Ohio for her work promoting peace, her work with Cleveland's Asian-Indian American community and for working to bring Cleveland's many international communities together.

Vijaya was killed in a tragic accident on the Ohio Turnpike on January 15, 2009, at the age of 51. On that morning Vijaya was on her way to work at Kent State University when she stopped to help crash victims along an icy stretch of the turnpike. She is being honored by the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation on April 14 at its Annual Spring Dinner at Karlin Hall in Cleveland's Slavic Village.

Vijaya was an active member of the Asian-Indian community of Greater Cleveland and served at the President of the Federation of Indian Community Associations in Cleveland. Due to her leadership, India is now among the many international countries represented in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens in Rockefeller Park. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens is an internationally known site which serves to represent the numerous diverse ethnic groups which continue to make Cleveland and the United States into the diverse, egalitarian, and pluralistic society we enjoy. Prior to Vijaya's involvement, representation at the Cleveland Cultural Gardens was mainly European; however, following the dedication of the India Cultural Garden, we celebrated the opening of the African-American and Azerbaijani gardens and plans are now underway for Native American, Hispanic, Syrian, Philippine, and Vietnamese gardens.

The India Cultural Garden is also significant for the giant statue of Mohandas K. Gandhi for

which Vijaya worked to raise money for. She was a tireless advocate for peace, a Hindu, and a follower of the teachings of Gandhi. She was instrumental in bringing in Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Rajmohan Gandhi, to speak at One World Day at Rockefeller Park last year. Another aspect of Vijaya's quest for world peace was her participation in Toastmasters International. She appreciated Toastmasters founder Ralph Smedley's belief that if people could communicate better with one another, they could break barriers to peace. Vijaya was an active member of the Crossroads Toastmasters club in Strongsville and Toastmasters District 10 in Northern Ohio. She received the one of the highest honors last year when she received the Advanced Communicator Silver award by the Toastmasters International.

Vijaya used her communication skills to advocate peace not only among nations, but among families. She bravely broke her own silence about domestic violence, which even today is not widely discussed among immigrant families. After her own experience, she counseled other immigrant wives and girlfriends trapped in abusive relationships. She brought together fellow community activists in Cleveland's international community to form a coalition to confront domestic violence in immigrant communities.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of one of Cleveland's great champions of peace, Vijaya Emani. She developed her skills as a communicator and community organizer to bring peace in the home and peace in the world. The Greater Cleveland community will surely miss the presence of Vijaya at community events, but the passion and commitment she brought to everything she did will never be forgotten. Our condolences go out to her daughters Sujata and Nirmala, and her extended network of family and friends around the world.

INTRODUCING THE INACTIVE ACCOUNT CLOSURE NOTIFICATION ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Inactive Account Closure Notification Act, which protects consumers from having their credit cards closed and their credit scores lowered against their will.

Under current law, credit card companies can close an inactive account without providing any prior notification to the customer.

Often, the customer does not know his or her credit card account is being closed until after the fact.

Because of the way credit scores are calculated, unilateral account closures can lower the credit scores of consumers.

In addition, because credit card companies are only closing inactive accounts that do not carry a balance and do not incur fees or finance charges, the consumers that are seeing their credit scores penalized are likely to be the most responsible borrowers.

Just the other day, I heard from a woman in my district who recently had her credit card terminated for inactivity.

She had never missed a payment on her card and had excellent credit prior to her account being closed.

Her credit card company gave her no early warning that it was planning to terminate her account.

Had she received notification that the company was planning to close her account due to inactivity, she would have been more than happy to use the card again.

She even called the company to see if it would be willing to reopen her account if she used her card, but was told no.

These stories are not unique to my home district of San Diego. Consumers all over the country are going through the same exact experience.

I request permission to enter into the RECORD an article from the Wall Street Journal from March 11 of this year detailing the havoc these account closures are wreaking on the credit scores of consumers across our nation.

The bill I am introducing today—the Inactive Account Closure Notification Act—will protect consumers by requiring credit card companies to provide customers with a 60-day notification before they can close their accounts for inactivity.

During this 60-day period, customers can use their credit cards to prevent their accounts from being closed.

If an account has been closed for inactivity, a customer will still have 30 days to contact the credit card company requesting that his or her account be reopened.

With lenders dramatically tightening their standards in the current economic climate, even a small dent in a consumer's credit score can severely impact his or her ability to take out a mortgage, start a small business, buy a car, or pay for college.

Responsible consumers deserve to have advance warning that their credit cards will be closed and their credit scores will be lowered.

Help me protect our consumers.

I urge the adoption of the Inactive Account Closure Notification Act and yield back my time.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Mar. 11, 2009]

CREDIT CARD ISSUERS: BUY SOMETHING OR ELSE!

(By Kelli B. Grant)

One of the biggest causes of the financial crisis was that Americans were borrowing (and spending) more money than they could afford to pay back.

So how are credit-card issuers reacting to consumers' attempts to live a more financially responsible lifestyle? They're threatening to cut their credit cards off if they don't spend enough.

Loretta Maxwell of Troy, Mich., thought her credit score of 790 buffered her against most of the fallout of the credit crunch. When Chase closed her \$6,000-limit card in December without warning after two years of inactivity, she called to fight it. She was unsuccessful. "If you're not using it, they entice you to do so, and then the moment you don't spend enough, they cut your limit," she says. (Chase says it is standard practice is to review inactive accounts. "Inactive cards with large open credit lines present a real risk of fraudulent use and large potential liabilities for Chase," says spokeswoman Stephanie Jacobson.)

Maxwell's experience is far from an isolated incident. Most major issuers, including Chase, Bank of America, American Express and Citibank have been slashing credit lines and closing the accounts of those who don't

spend on their card regularly. While these issuers are required to notify you in writing of an account closing, there's no requirement that they do so in advance. Even when they do give early notice, the only way a cardholder can stop their account from getting shut down is to start spending again.

In December, Discover reported that it closed three million accounts during 2008 due to inactivity, and plans to cull up to two million more. A Discover spokeswoman says the issuer is constantly reevaluating cardholder's credit and assessing whether they have the most appropriate credit line and product. Capital One is suspending accounts that have been inactive for at least a year, warning account holders they only have 60 days to redeem their rewards. "Some of these accounts had literally never been used," says spokeswoman Pamela Girardo. A spokeswoman for Bank of America, meanwhile, says the bad economy prompted it to close accounts with zero balances that have been inactive for more than a year. American Express spokeswoman Lisa Gonzalez says it periodically reviews inactive accounts for cancellation. Citibank did not respond to requests for comment.

From a business perspective, cutting off certain customers is a smart financial move, says Sanjay Sakhrani, an analyst with investment bank Keefe, Bruyette & Woods. Closing rarely-used accounts lowers a card issuer's risk profile by keeping their potential liabilities (i.e., the amount of credit available they extend to cardholders) from outweighing their assets. Inactive accounts also cost the issuer money to maintain, without providing the benefit of income from interest or merchant fees, he says.

For consumers, however, closing accounts can be devastating—especially to their credit score. Your credit utilization ratio—the amount of your debt in relation to the amount of your available credit—comprises 30% of your score, says Craig Watts, a spokesman for Fair Isaac Corporation, the company that calculates and issues the FICO credit score that most lenders use. So when an account is closed, you have less credit available to you—and the ratio immediately jumps higher. A person with a solid credit score of 720 or so, whose utilization ratio jumps from 35% to 75% after one of their accounts is closed is likely to see their score drop by "several dozen points," to somewhere in the 600s, he says. That's a far cry from the 760 (or higher) consumers need to get the best rates from lenders.

One thing that somewhat softens the blow is that FICO factors in closed accounts when calculating the longevity of your credit history, which accounts for 15% of your score. While lenders may make a note on your report indicating whether the account was closed by them or you, the information isn't used in the scoring formula, says Watts.

Ironically, an excellent credit score can actually serve as more of a bulls-eye than a shield, says Dennis Moroney, a research director and senior analyst for consulting firm Tower Group. He says banks figure they can limit cardholder backlash by targeting consumers with few debts and plenty of other accounts. That way, a closed account won't have as much of a detrimental effect on their creditworthiness.

Even years of loyalty and regular spending won't spare some cardholders. David Good of Houston, used to be devoted to American Express, with which he had two credit cards: an unlimited charge account and a \$7,500 revolving account. Yet a solid credit score, eight years of on-time payments and fairly frequent purchases on the cards—including more than \$100,000 last year alone—weren't enough to save his accounts. In December, Good received a written notice that the

issuer had closed both due to "low activity in the past six months." "I was shocked," he says. "They lost my trust, totally." (American Express declined to comment on Good's or any other individual's accounts.)

New Yorker Veronica Eady Famira was vacationing in Germany when she discovered that her \$1,500-limit Delta SkyMiles card from American Express had been shut down. "I must have spent \$300 in cellphone charges calling banks," she says. "I was pretty stranded." Adding insult to injury, Famira had just earned a free companion ticket on the card valued at up to \$400 for a domestic flight—now she can't redeem the ticket.

CONGRATULATING EUGENIA
ARMBRECHT FOR BEING NAMED
FIRST LADY OF MOBILE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mrs. Eugenia Armbricht on the occasion of her being named First Lady of Mobile. The Mobile chapters of Beta Sigma Phi, an international women's network with over 165,000 members, recently bestowed this honor on her.

Known to her many friends as "Gigi," she is a tireless volunteer and has devoted her entire life to improving the lives of countless people who call Mobile and south Alabama home.

Gigi moved to Mobile from Galveston, Texas, just in time for her senior year at Murphy High School. Following graduation, she moved to Tuscaloosa where she attended the University of Alabama and received a bachelor's degree in education. She met her future husband, Conrad Armbricht, in Tuscaloosa, and after graduation, they moved to Mobile where she began teaching first grade.

She soon developed an interest in special education and began working on her first master's degree at the University of South Alabama. Gigi also began giving much of her time as a volunteer for Mobile United, and by 1988, she was a paid employee of the organization. Ten years later, she was recruited to join AT&T, and she now serves as manager of regional and external affairs for the company.

Gigi was also honored this year as a distinguished University of South Alabama alumna and the Junior League of Mobile's Sustainer of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Mrs. Eugenia "Gigi" Armbricht for being named this year's First Lady of Mobile; truly, no one is more deserving of this high honor. And in so doing, I would also like to recognize Gigi for her lifetime of outstanding professional and philanthropic accomplishments; she is truly a role model for our entire community.

Furthermore, I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this respected and dedicated friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know Gigi's family; her husband, Conrad; their two wonderful children, Stewart and Amanda; her granddaughter and her many friends and other family join me in praising Gigi's accomplishments and extending thanks for her never-ending efforts to make south Alabama a better place to live and call home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday, April 1st, I was in my district attending the funeral of my mother Roffie Pascrell, who recently passed away at the age of 95, and I therefore missed the 8 rollcall votes of the day.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 175 on the Motion to Table the Resolution—H. Res. 312.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 176 On Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 85) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 and 2011 through 2014—H. Res. 305.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 177 On Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1664) to amend the executive compensation provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to prohibit unreasonable and excessive compensation and compensation not based on performance standards—H. Res. 306.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 178 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended End Government Reimbursement of Excessive Executive Disbursements (End GREED) Act—H.R. 1575.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 179 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree Honoring the lives, and mourning the loss, of Sergeant Mark Dunakin, Sergeant Ervin Romans, Sergeant Daniel Sakai, and Officer John Hege, members of the Oakland Police Department in California who were brutally slain in the line of duty—H. Res. 290.

Had I been present I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 180 On Agreeing to the Amendment—Bean of Illinois Amendment to H.R. 1664.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 181 On Agreeing to the Amendment—Dahlkemper of Pennsylvania Amendment to H.R. 1664.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 182 On Passage To amend the executive compensation provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to prohibit unreasonable and excessive compensation and compensation not based on performance standards—H.R. 1664.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF FRED
V. KROEGER

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, this evening, the Southwestern Colorado Water Conservation District will bid farewell to a most

dedicated, knowledgeable and remarkable man who has served on its board for 55 years.

Fred V. Kroeger of Durango, Colorado is a devoted man—to his family, his community and water resources.

Fred was born in 1918 in Durango, Colorado and he lived there all his life. He graduated from Fort Lewis College and he made his home there with his beloved wife Eleanor. Fred and Eleanor raised their children in Durango and operated a business there—Kroeger's True Value Hardware.

But Fred's grandfather and father were tied to the rural land and the agricultural economy of the region, and Fred's commitment to the farmers and ranchers who were his neighbors continued throughout his life. That commitment was evidenced by Fred's steadfast support for the Animas-La Plata Project, which was to deliver water to the "dry side" so that those farmers and ranchers could thrive with a more reliable and generous water supply. To this day, Fred bemoans the loss of the irrigation features of the project, which is now nearly complete but is limited to municipal and industrial supplies.

Indeed, the first water meeting Fred attended was with the Southwestern District to discuss the Animas-La Plata Project in 1948. In addition to serving on that board, Fred served on the Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District board for 24 years, the Colorado Water Conservation Board for 21 years and has been a member of the Colorado Water Congress for 51 years.

That organization bestowed upon Fred the prestigious Wayne Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award, given in the name of one of my predecessors who chaired the then-House Interior Committee where many of the water projects Fred Kroeger fought for were developed.

Fred was active in his community and its civic and cultural organizations. He always carries a little pocket calendar with him, and it is jammed with meeting commitments to boards, business, family and friends.

At 91, Fred has decided to free up some of those days on the calendar, and so he decided to retire from the Southwestern District board. He richly deserves the recognition he will receive tonight from his colleagues. I offer not only my congratulations to him on his retirement, by a little regret that he will be leaving and a mountain of respect for what he has given to the water resource community.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ELIZABETH ANN PITTROFF
COPELAND

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and, indeed, the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Elizabeth Ann Pittroff Copeland and pay tribute to her memory.

Known to her many friends as Betty, she was a lifelong resident of Mobile. She graduated from The Visitation Monastery and was a lifelong member of St. Pius X Catholic Church. She married her husband of 58 years,

Reggie Copeland Sr., just three days before he was sent to Germany with the U.S. Army in 1950.

Betty's first priority was raising her children and later her grandchildren. She was known for seamstress skills and for being a prolific note-writer. Whenever she saw something in the newspaper about someone she knew, she would clip it out and send it to them with a personal note.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Elizabeth Ann Pittroff Copeland will be dearly missed by her family—her husband, Mobile City Council President Reggie Copeland Sr.; their five children, Reggie Copeland Jr., Randy Copeland and his wife Alison, Gayle Phillips and her husband Lee, Riley Copeland and his wife Penny, and Russ Copeland and his wife Leigh; their 12 grandchildren, Tre' Copeland, Ryder Copeland, Randall Copeland, Anna Copeland, Grace Copeland, Jordan Phillips, Will Phillips, Riley Phillips, Conrad Copeland, Cunningham Copeland, Madison Copeland, and Anderson Copeland; and her sister, Mary Ellen Ham and her husband Victor—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF C.
RAY BAKER

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the service and commitment of C. Ray Baker who has devoted his life to helping make "Life worth living in Fort Smith, Arkansas."

Ray Baker has been a lifelong champion of Fort Smith. He's shown his love for the community through serving its citizens for the past 19 years as Mayor.

He shared his enthusiasm for the community with the generations of students he taught over his 46 years as an educator. His legacy is far reaching beyond the halls of Southside High School where he taught for 44 years.

He has received numerous awards and commendations for his years in the classroom including being named Arkansas PTA Teacher of the Year, a Milken Family National Educator, Arkansas Teacher of the Year and Daughters of the American Revolution National American History Teacher of the Year.

Teaching was only one passion, he has dedicated countless hours volunteering for civic service organizations and the energy he brings to ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings and awards ceremonies and special community events is contagious. His dedication to Fort Smith has inspired an award named after him, the "Ray Baker Lifetime Achievement Award."

Ray is a true American hero. He has had a tremendous impact on me because of the way he lives his life.

His energetic spirit has given us all strength, and we are fortunate to have his leadership and dedication. Fort Smith is a better place because of Ray Baker.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT SHIRLEY STRUM KENNY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Stony Brook University President, Shirley Strum Kenny, on the occasion of her being recognized as a Stony Brook University "Star" at the Tenth Annual Stars of Stony Brook Gala. In her numerous roles in the field of education, President Kenny has demonstrated her commitment to the principle that education remains the key to breaking down our own economic barriers and to securing our nation's standing in the world. I commend President Kenny for her commitment to public education and dedication to the egalitarian notion that a higher education should be affordable and accessible to all. This commitment is in the finest traditions of Stony Brook University and the State University of New York system as a whole.

In 1994, President Kenny began her tenure as the first woman President of the University. Since that time, Stony Brook has experienced a renaissance with expansions in the opportunities it provides across the board: from Division I Athletics to major improvements to the Stony Brook University Medical Center. During her presidency, enrollment has increased from 17,500 to more than 23,000, faculty numbers are up 8 percent, and demand for a Stony Brook University education has increased exponentially. With President Kenny's leadership, Stony Brook University has undertaken major construction projects, including the Charles B. Wang Center, a Stony Brook Manhattan campus, the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics, new buildings for Life Sciences, Humanities, and Engineering, and most recently, the Stony Brook University Southampton campus.

Concerned about our nation's educational system as a whole, President Kenny has been a leader for national reform. She launched and chaired the Boyer Commission on Educating Undergraduates in the Research University, which produced a report advocating a dynamic model of education that would engage students and inspire them to conduct research consistent with the unique resources of each institution. She has served as Chair of the Association for American Colleges and Universities, and as a board member of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

President Kenny's impact on countless numbers of students, to whom she has dedicated her life and work, is immeasurable. For her selfless dedication to her students and commitment to advancing education for all, I ask all my colleagues in the House to please join me in honoring President Shirley Strum Kenny.

HONORING CHARLES W. BETZ

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Charles W.

Betz, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council. Charles has been selected to receive this award because of his volunteer service and based on his outstanding dedication to serving the needs of veterans within his community.

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have dedicated themselves to protecting the lives of every American. Their service to our Nation deserves the highest level of gratitude. It is of the utmost importance that we take the time to recognize the individuals who give of their time and talents to support veterans and ensure their comfort, care, and well-being.

Mr. Betz has been a strong advocate for veterans of the Armed Forces through his office as Post Surgeon and Hospital Chairman of the VFW. Not only does he give of his time to prepare and execute visits to the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation and Extended Care Center, but he and his wife also coordinate activities for the residents. Their group sing-a-longs and Bingo games are always received with much appreciation.

Despite personal health problems, with both knee and shoulder surgeries, Mr. Betz has continued to volunteer at least 30 hours a month.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. Charles W. Betz. His compassion and dedication to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces has become an inspiration to us all, and is deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mr. Betz on his exemplary service as an advocate and a volunteer.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE
CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF
2009

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the bipartisan Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, along with Representatives KIRK, FRANK, BIGGERT, BALDWIN, ROS-LEHTINEN, NADLER, BONO MACK and POLIS. This legislation will provide assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies and amend federal law to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of violent, bias-motivated crimes. Last Congress, this legislation passed with bipartisan support by a vote of 237–180. Bipartisan majorities have also voted in favor of hate crimes legislation for the last three consecutive Congresses. With a strong statement of Presidential support, the time has finally come for the enactment of this important legislation.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act has attracted the support of nearly 300 civil rights, education, religious, and civic organizations. Importantly, virtually every major law enforcement organization in the country has endorsed the bill—including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National District Attorneys Association, the National Sheriffs Association, the Police Executive Research Forum, and 31 state Attorneys General.

At a time when our nation is celebrating its diversity, bias crimes are disturbingly prevalent

and pose a significant threat to the full participation of all Americans in our democratic society. In the wake of the November Presidential election, the Southern Poverty Law Center has detailed hundreds of hate crime incidents, vandalism and threats, including the election-night assault of Alie Kamara on Staten Island by two teenagers who shouted racial epithets and "Obama!" as they beat him. Moreover, statistics have shown hate crimes against Latinos and Asian Americans rising steadily over the past four years as the immigration has grown more intense. In the last eight months, there have been three brutal hate-related murders of Latinos in New York and Pennsylvania. While intolerance may be in retreat, its presence is still felt in many minority communities.

The FBI has the best national data on reported hate crime, though the program is voluntary. Since 1991, the FBI has documented over 118,000 hate crimes. For the year 2007, the most current data available, the FBI compiled reports from law enforcement agencies across the country identifying 7,624 bias-motivated criminal incidents that were directed against an individual because of their personal characteristics. Law enforcement agencies identified 9,535 victims arising from 9,006 separate criminal offenses. As in the past, racially motivated bias accounted for approximately half (50.8 %) of all incidents. Religious bias accounted for 1,400 incidents (18.4 %) and sexual orientation bias accounted for 1,265 incidents—(16.6 %), followed by ethnicity/national origin bias with 1,007 incidents—(13.2%). While these numbers are disturbing, it is important to note that, for a variety of reasons, hate crimes are seriously under-reported.

Despite the deep impact of hate violence on communities, current law limits federal jurisdiction over hate crimes to incidents directed against individuals on the basis of race, religion, color or national origin—but only when the victim is targeted because he/she is engaged in a federally protected activity, such as voting. Further, the statutes do not permit federal involvement in a range of cases where crimes are motivated by bias against the victim's perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability. The federal government must have authority to be involved in investigating and prosecuting these crimes when state authorities cannot or will not do so.

This legislation, which is identical to the version approved in the 110th Congress, will strengthen existing federal law in the same way that the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 helped federal prosecutors combat church arson: by addressing the unduly rigid jurisdictional requirements under federal law. The bill only applies to bias-motivated violent crimes and does not impinge public speech or writing in any way. In fact, the measure includes an explicit First Amendment free speech protection for the accused modeled on the existing Washington state hate crimes statute. This bill will only apply to criminal conduct that is already being prosecuted.

State and local authorities currently prosecute the overwhelming majority of hate crimes and will continue to do so under this legislation. The federal government will continue to defer to state and local authorities in the vast majority of cases; the Attorney General or other high ranking Justice Department official must approve any prosecutions under-

taken pursuant to this law, ensuring federal restraint. However, in appropriate circumstances, the federal government will be able to provide support for local prosecutions—an intergovernmental grant program created by this legislation will make Justice Department technical, forensic or prosecutorial assistance available. The legislation also authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to state and local law enforcement agencies that have incurred extraordinary expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

Hate crime statistics do not speak for themselves. Behind each of the statistics is an individual or community targeted for violence for no other reason than race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability. Law enforcement authorities and civic leaders have learned that a failure to address the problem of bias crime can cause a seemingly isolated incident to fester into widespread tension that can damage the social fabric of the wider community. The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 is a constructive and measured response to a problem that continues to plague our nation. These are crimes that shock and shame our national conscience. They should be subject to comprehensive federal law enforcement assistance and prosecution.

CONGRATULATING DR. VIC
MORGAN

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate my friend, Dr. Vic Morgan, as he formally retires after 18 years of serving as President of Sul Ross State University.

Throughout his tenure as President, Dr. Morgan has demonstrated strong leadership and a commitment to providing a valuable academic experience for the students of Sul Ross State University. Having begun his career at SRSU as an Associate Professor of Mathematics, Dr. Morgan is the first faculty member to be promoted from within the University to its highest position.

In addition to having fulfilled his responsibilities as President, Dr. Morgan remained extremely active in professional organizations in mathematics, student affairs, and educational administration. He has exemplified community service through his selfless work with the Church of Christ, the Lions Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and numerous youth related activities and organizations.

After a decorated career at Sul Ross State University, Dr. Vic Morgan will retire having left a lasting impact on so many students and teachers whose lives he's touched. As a former educator myself, I am especially thankful for his steadfast commitment to students and educators in Texas' 23rd Congressional District. I wish to extend my sincerest wishes to Dr. Vic Morgan and his family for a healthy and much deserved retirement.

HONORING THE DOGWOOD TRAIL
MAIDS FOR PARTICIPATING IN
THE NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM
FESTIVAL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Dogwood Trail Maids for being selected to participate in this year's National Cherry Blossom Festival.

Held annually, the Cherry Blossom festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from the mayor of Tokyo to the city of Washington and honors the lasting friendship between the United States and Japan.

Today, more than a million people travel to Washington each year to see the blossoming cherry trees and attend events that signal the beginning of spring in our Nation's capital.

For 49 years, the Dogwood Trail Pageant and Scholarship Program—comprised of six high school girls from Baldwin County—complete nearly 200 hours of community service and make more than 50 appearances, including festivals, charity runs and ceremonies. The trail maids were even invited to both of Governor Bob Riley's Inaugural parades.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Dogwood Trail Maids for their participation in the 2009 National Cherry Blossom Festival. I know Baldwin County and indeed, the State of Alabama are so proud for these young ladies to travel to Washington and participate in the organization's first Cherry Blossom parade.

HONORING GARY CHASEY FOR
"CITIZEN OF THE YEAR" AWARD

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional service and leadership of Mr. Gary Chasey of Athens, Texas. Mr. Chasey has served his community for years in many capacities and was recently recognized as the "Citizen of the Year" by the Athens Chamber of Commerce.

Gary, along with his wife, Sharon, volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Through this very special and important capacity, Gary has changed the lives of dozens of children in his community. As a CASA volunteer, he looks after the interest of children who are in the court system. He has spent countless hours advocating and watching over abused and neglected children.

For several years, Gary has served as President and Vice-President for Labor of Love of Henderson County. Labor of Love is an organization that repairs homes for those in the community who cannot afford to make repairs or complete maintenance tasks. As a leader in Labor of Love, Gary has helped increase completed projects by over 90%. His financial expertise, leadership and tireless work ethic have undoubtedly benefited countless citizens.

In addition, Gary is a member of the First Presbyterian Church and is active with the

Methodist Men at First United Methodist Church.

As the Congressman for the Fifth District of Texas, I am pleased today to recognize Gary Chasey for his many years of public service and countless contributions he has made to make his community and his country a better place. Gary, on behalf of all the constituents of the Fifth District, especially those in Henderson County, I would like to extend our most sincere thanks.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER MANUEL BENAVIDEZ, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Manuel Benavidez, Jr. for his service to the people of Starr County, the State of Texas, and the education community across the country. His life was a symbol of what hard work and desire can achieve. He was a respected member of his community and of the State of Texas and we will all miss him dearly.

Mr. Benavidez was born in La Grulla, Texas in 1952. A former migrant farm worker, he graduated from Rio Grande City High School and later attended Pan American University where he received a bachelor's degree in bilingual education. Education has been a focal point in Mr. Benavidez's life, where he has not just worked to educate himself but has dedicated himself to helping others enhance their lives through study.

In 1993, he was appointed to the South Texas College Board of Trustees as the representative for Starr County. He worked tirelessly to bring the first community college to the area and through the years he has been instrumental in bringing millions of dollars to the county for STC campuses. His testimony in support of the dual enrollment program was key to getting legislation passed that has helped families across Texas save millions of dollars on the cost of college tuition. His life has revolved around the idea of bettering his community by giving the residents of Starr County an equal opportunity to accessing higher education.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Manuel Benavidez, Jr. for his lifetime of dedicated service to Starr County and to the education community across the country. He was a husband, a father, and an inspiration for all of us. He will be greatly missed.

HONORING VANESSA SCOTT

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mrs. Vanessa Scott, recently awarded the 2008 Congress-

sional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council. Vanessa has been selected to receive this award because of her volunteer service at the VA, based on her outstanding dedication to serving the needs of veterans within her community.

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have dedicated themselves to protecting the lives of every American. Their service to our Nation deserves the highest level of gratitude. It is important that we take the time to recognize the individuals who give of their time and talents to support veterans and ensure their comfort, care, and well-being.

Mrs. Scott has been an advocate for veterans for the past 15 years. She has worked at both Fort Howard and the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation and Extended Care Center. While raising a family, Vanessa has given of her time to the sick and lonesome men and women in those VA facilities, such as spending her evenings playing Bingo with patients. Her unwavering dedication has inspired those who serve with her to provide exceptional service and care.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mrs. Vanessa Scott. Her compassion and commitment to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces has become an inspiration to us all, and is deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mrs. Scott on her exemplary service as an advocate and a volunteer.

TRIBAL LAW AND ORDER ACT OF 2009

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, today, I am pleased to reintroduce the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2009, critical legislation to address needs of law enforcement and justice services in Indian Country. I want to thank Senator DORGAN and his colleagues and staff on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee for their tireless dedication to these issues.

The Tribal Law & Order Act would establish accountability measures for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice with regard to tribal law enforcement. This bill also seeks to increase local control to tribal law enforcement agencies and to authorize additional resources for tribes to address the safety and security needs of their communities.

In June 2007, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on the Lower Brule Reservation in South Dakota. Entitled, The Needs and Challenges of Tribal Law Enforcement in Indian Reservations, tribal leaders and law enforcement officials from eight tribes testified for the need to improve government-to-government consultations between tribes and the federal agencies charged with supporting their law enforcement goals. Witnesses explained the need for more resources for officers, equipment, jails, and tribal courts.

For example, the Law Enforcement Department of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of South Dakota serves a population spread across 19

communities with a land base of approximately 2.8 million acres. Some of these communities are located as far as 90 miles away from department headquarters. With approximately 4,500 miles of roadways on the reservation, it often takes officers a considerable amount of time to address calls, including emergencies.

At current funding levels, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Law Enforcement Department is unable to provide adequate police protection to all of these communities. In FY08, the tribal police force was reduced by 10 patrol officers due to budget constraints. Now, officers are logging over 4000 hours of overtime each quarter, which leads to stress and strain on the officers and their families, and ultimately, undermines retention efforts and leads to communities that are not as safe as they should be.

From my work with tribal communities in South Dakota and as a Member of the Committee on Natural Resources, I know that Cheyenne River is not an extreme case. In fact, across all Indian Country, there are less than 3,000 tribal law enforcement officers to patrol over 56 million acres of land. This figure represents less than one-half of the law enforcement presence in comparable rural communities. This disparity is unacceptable and shameful.

The Tribal Law and Order Act is an important step to addressing the complex and broken system of law and order in Indian Country. This bill would clarify the responsibilities of Federal, State, tribal, and local governments with respect to crimes committed in tribal communities; increase coordination and communication among Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies; empower tribal governments with the authority, resources, and information necessary to effectively provide for the public's safety in tribal communities; reduce the prevalence of violent crime in tribal communities and combat violence against Indian and Alaska Native women; address and prevent drug trafficking and reduce rates of alcohol and drug addiction in Indian country; and increase and standardize the collection of criminal data and the sharing of criminal history information among Federal, State, and tribal officials responsible for responding to and investigating crimes in tribal communities.

The Senate Indian Affairs Committee has held numerous hearings and has reached out to tribes across the United States while crafting this bill, and I appreciate their efforts to address the concerns raised by tribal members and leaders. I recognize that this bill alone will not solve the problems raised by tribes in these consultations and hearings. As such, I will continue to work for increased funding for law enforcement personnel, detention facilities, equipment and training, tribal courts, and other components required for a successful justice system. I will continue to hold the Bureau of Indian Affairs accountable for upholding the trust responsibility within the realm of law enforcement. Ultimately, I believe that this bill offers important and necessary tools in our shared goal of making Indian Country a safer place to be.

Madam Speak, I urge my colleagues to join with me to pass the Tribal Law and Order Act into law.

RECOGNIZING GALILEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH UPON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Galilee Missionary Baptist Church on its 100th anniversary.

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church was originally founded in 1909 near Sanger, Texas. In 1910, Church officials established a church for the community to worship in and a school where they could educate their children. Construction of a new church building began in the 1950s after the first building was not big enough to accommodate the growing number of members.

Galilee Church takes pride in its service as an educational facility and a place for worship for its community. Many members have served in the United States armed forces. Others happily serve their communities through various leadership and service activities, participating as Sanger Sellabration Singers, Nursing Home Carolers, community Thanksgivng program volunteers, and more. Their Women's Mission Group frequently supports the community by opening their hands and hearts to the Denton State School, Annual School supply drive, African Orphans, Operation smile, Food Pantry and Chamber of Commerce Angel Tree Program.

I am proud to recognize Galilee Missionary Baptist Church for their accomplishment of a century of service to their community. It is my privilege to represent the members of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in the 26th district of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that today, April 2nd, I was returning from my district after attending the funeral of my mother Roffie Pascrell, who recently passed away at the age of 95, and I therefore missed the first 5 roll call votes of the day.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote #183 On Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for the adjournment of the House and Senate—H. Con. Res. 93.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote #184 On Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 85—H. Res. 316.

Had I been present I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote #185 On Agreeing to the Amendment—Buyer of Indiana Substitute Amendment to H.R. 1256.

Had I been present I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote #186 On Motion to Recommit with Instructions the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act—H.R. 1256.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 187 On Pas-

sage of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act—H.R. 1256.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT FAIRNESS ACT OF 2009

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, today I introduced, with my colleagues JEFF FLAKE and DEAN HELLER, the Reagan National Airport Fairness Act of 2009.

This legislation would allow more nonstop access to Reagan National Airport for passengers from Phoenix, Las Vegas and cities throughout the west.

Currently, that access is limited by a so-called Perimeter Rule that unfairly limits nonstop flights from cities located more than 1,250 miles away.

Flights from cities within 1,250 miles of Washington, D.C., by contrast, are not subject to this limitation.

Originally designed to encourage passengers to use Dulles Airport when it was first built, the Perimeter Rule has long since outlived its intended purpose. Dulles Airport is now one of our nation's busiest.

Congress has already recognized the need to relax these flight restrictions, and now a small number of nonstop flights from western cities are allowed limited access to Reagan National Airport.

In addition, H.R. 915, the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act, would increase the number of nonstop flights allowed.

This would be another important step forward.

However, in the interest of fairness and free market competition, I believe we must go further.

The legislation we introduced today would allow more flights from more western airports into Reagan National Airport.

It's the right thing to do, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

HONORING BARBARA SWANN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mrs. Barbara Swann, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council. Barbara has been selected to receive this award because of her volunteer service at the VA, based on her outstanding dedication to serving the needs of veterans within her community.

Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces have dedicated themselves to protecting the lives of every American. Their service to our Nation deserves the highest level of gratitude. It is of the utmost importance that we take the time to

recognize the individuals who give of their time and talents to support veterans and ensure their comfort, care, and well-being.

Mrs. Swann currently serves as the Coordinator of Volunteer Services for the Baltimore Rehabilitation and Extended Care Center. She has been instrumental in an effort to collect non-perishables and other items to send to Marines in Afghanistan. While raising a family, Barbara has worked early mornings and late evenings, giving of her personal time to veterans. She has recruited volunteers and made it a point to ensure their proper training, medical examinations, and understanding of HIPAA law.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mrs. Barbara Swann. Her compassion and dedication to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces has become an inspiration to us all, and is deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mrs. Swann on her exemplary service as an advocate and a volunteer.

HONORING LABOR OF LOVE OF HENDERSON COUNTY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service that Labor of Love provides the communities in Henderson County, Texas.

The Athens Samaritans was formed as a precursor to Labor of Love in 1986 when members of the First Christian Church of Athens went to Amarillo to help with a Habitat for Humanity project. Members became energized about founding their own organization locally that would help with housing for the disadvantaged. The group decided to focus on repairing existing homes and thus organized the Labor of Love in 1987.

Since that time, the First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church and First Baptist Church joined the effort and helped expand the organization. Labor of Love now has 12 project managers who recruit workers from dozens of volunteers.

In 2008 alone, Labor of Love completed 231 projects in Henderson County. The organization's efforts are supported with resources from the Henderson County United Way, the Cain Foundation and the Murchison Foundation, as well as other foundations, churches, businesses and individuals. Labor of Love also sponsors paint projects for groups such as the Boy Scouts, Young Life, 4-H, church groups and businesses.

This organization provides an invaluable service to those in the community who truly need assistance. Over the years, hundreds of individuals and families have been blessed by the men and women of Labor of Love.

As the Congressman for the Fifth District of Texas, I am pleased today to recognize the Labor of Love for their contributions to Henderson County. To all the men and women who give of their time and efforts so generously, on behalf of all the constituents of the Fifth District, I would like to extend our most sincere gratitude.

CONGRATULATING MARTHA HERNANDEZ FOR 45 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO FIREMAN'S FUND

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, in an age in which the average job tenure is 5 years, it is increasingly rare for someone to be with the same company for 20 years, and extraordinary that someone would be with one organization for 45 years and still engaging in the workplace with the same enthusiasm and professionalism that they had throughout their career.

Such is the case with Martha Hernandez, who joined the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company in San Francisco in May 1964 and continues to be with them today, moving with the company to Novato, California, in my Congressional District.

Martha came to Fireman's Fund as a 14-year-old girl having moved from Mexico City with her parents and brother Rubin to the United States where they settled in Pacifica, California. Her first job at the Fund was manually coding policies that would then go to a key punch operator, high tech for the time, but now the technological equivalent of the horse and buggy age. Over time, Martha's work continued to expand and she became an underwriting technician where she developed an excellent reputation for her attention to detail.

For Martha, the people at Fireman's Fund are a part of her family, and apparently it is a two way street. She left the company for a grand total of two weeks in 1984 when there was a reduction in force, but came back when her friends and colleagues helped find another job for her. As far as everyone is concerned, she never left Fireman's Fund just as no one can ever escape a loving home.

Martha is very involved in her church and is a devoted aunt to her four nephews and one niece and a two-year-old great niece. Over the years, she has made her own unique contributions to the Christmas holiday festivities at Fireman's Fund by bringing in her three types of homemade tamales that have reduced the enthusiasm her colleagues have for the ones they usually get in restaurants.

Martha continues to work at Fireman's Fund in their Resolution Services division, and commutes everyday from her home in San Francisco to Novato in her red and white Mini Cooper.

Madam Speaker, most of the news we read regarding work life is directed at people who are in top management who might be making the big decisions. However, our economy is really dependent upon the people who keep things going, processing the information, and making certain that goods and services are provided for. Martha Hernandez is a person who has helped our country to flourish, and it gives me tremendous pleasure to recognize her contribution to Fireman's Fund and to the well-being of the Bay Area.

TRIBUTE TO BURT BLUMERT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, Burton Samuel Blumert passed away on Monday March 30, following a long battle with cancer. Burt was a true hero of the freedom movement and my close friend, advisor, and business partner.

As the founder and manager of Camino Coins in Burlingame, CA, Burt was one of the nation's leading dealers in gold and silver coins. A student of Ludwig von Mises and the Austrian school of economics, Burt understood the important role precious metals played in protecting ordinary citizens from the damage wrought by fiat money and inflation. Thus, he regarded his work as a coin dealer not just as a business, but as an opportunity to help people by providing with some protection from the Federal Reserve's inflation tax.

After I stepped down from Congress in 1984, I partnered with Burt in the coin business, a partnership which lasted until I returned to Congress in 1996. Our partnership was based on nothing more than our words. As anyone who ever dealt with Burt could testify, that was all that was needed, because Burt's word was truly his bond. I am unaware of anyone who dealt with Burt who questioned his integrity or his commitment to his customers.

As well-known and respected as he was for his leadership in the coin business, Burt was best known as a promoter of libertarian ideas. Burt was a long time friend and patron of Murray Rothbard, one of Mises' top American students and a pioneer in economics, political theory, history, and much else. Burt helped Murray establish the Center for Libertarian Studies, and served as its president from 1975 until his death.

Burt also played a key role in the flourishing of the Ludwig von Mises Institute, which, as its name suggests, is the leading center for the promotion and development of Austrian economics and libertarian political theory in the nation. Burt served as a founding board member of the Institute and the chaired the Institute's board after the original chair, Mrs. Margit von Mises, passed away in 1993. He also published The Rothbard-Rockwell Report, a well-read libertarian newsletter written by Murray Rothbard and Mises Institute President Lew Rockwell.

Burt played a major role in making the ideas of liberty a force on the internet by serving as the publisher of Lewrockwell.com, as well supporting the development of Mises.org. Burt also played an instrumental role in the development of Antiwar.com. Burt also served as chairman of my first run for the presidency, and important counselor in the second.

In addition to his work with these organizations, Burt was a friend, mentor, and patron to numerous libertarian scholars and activists. He was incredibly generous with both his time and his resources. Talking to Burt was always a treat, because he had one of the best senses of humor I have ever known, and it seemed like he was always in a good mood. Events that would send his friends into fits of depression, rage, or both would be used by Burt as fodder for a series of jokes and wisecracks. Even in the last days of his battle with

cancer he remained upbeat. One of Burt's friends called him shortly after learning about Burt's cancer, but instead of consoling Burt, this friend ending up having his spirits lifted by Burt's humor.

It is somewhat of a comfort to myself, and I am sure to Burt's other friends, to know that he lived long enough to see so many of his efforts bear fruit. Today, the Mises Institute teaches sound economics and the principles of liberty to thousands of students every year while Mises.org is one of the leading economics websites in the world. Lewrockwell.com is one of the top providers of political, economic, and cultural commentary on the web, while Antiwar.com is the leading source of information for scholars, journalists, and activists looking for material to combat the propaganda of the war party.

As I travel across the country, I am astounded at the number of young people I met who are interested in the cause of individual liberty, peace, and sound money. Many of them got their introduction to these ideas through one of the many organizations nurtured by Burt Blumert.

Madam Speaker, perhaps the highest compliment one can pay to a departed friend is to say that they left the world better than they found it. That is certainly true in the case of Burt Blumert. While I am saddened that I will never again benefit from Burt's good humor and wise counsel, I am comforted by knowing that I was blessed by his friendship and the thought that the vibrant and growing freedom movement will serve as a living monument to Burt for years to come. I therefore join friends of liberty around the world in mourning Burt's passing, and saluting all he accomplished during his lifetime.

IN RECOGNITION OF PRINCETON'S BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Princeton Community High School Boys Basketball Team for winning its first 3A State Championship. The victory capped a perfect 29-0 season for the Tigers and earned them their first state title in school history.

The Tigers defeated the Rochester Zebras by a score of 81-79 in a thrilling double overtime victory at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. I was able to attend the game and it was one of the best I've seen, with 16 lead changes and a last second pair of free throws to put Princeton over the top.

As Tigers' coach Tom Weeks said, "That's what Indiana high school basketball is about. It doesn't get any better than what we saw tonight."

These young men are shining examples of the idea that success in life comes to those who are willing to set goals and work hard to achieve them. They are an inspiration to me and everyone in the Princeton, Indiana, community who have followed them throughout the years.

Go Tigers!

RECOGNIZING PAUL K. HARRAL
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul K. Harral for his service to the Fort Worth community throughout his career with the Fort Worth Star Telegram. After providing his expertise for nearly a quarter-century in almost every news department of the Star Telegram, Harral will retire at the end of April.

Media is Harral's passion. Before joining the Star-Telegram family in 1986, Harral served the United Press International, Baptist Medical Center and Florida City Magazines Inc. In the Star-Telegram, his goal has always been to present the issues that are important to his community and keep citizens informed. Over the years, Harral served as Senior Editor of Metro news, Ombudsman, Editor of the editorial pages, Editor of zoning operations, and supervised the online department. Under his tenure in 1995, the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors (APME) recognized the weekend and daily commentary sections as best in the state.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Paul K. Harral for his years of service to Fort Worth. His devotion serves as an example to those who had the privilege of working with him. Even though he is retiring, his contribution will be forever appreciated by the Fort Worth community. It is an honor to represent him as a member of the 26th district of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH CLARKE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Keith Clarke is one of these individuals. On April 16, 2009, Keith will retire as the Director of the Building Department for the City of Corona.

Keith graduated from Pacifica High School in 1973 and obtained his Associates Degree in Engineering from Cypress Junior College in 1976. He attended the University of California at Los Angeles and then attended California State University at Long Beach from 1977 to 1979.

After attending college, Keith became a General Contractor and contracted a variety of projects which included masonry structures, patio covers and room additions. From 1981 to 1982, Keith worked as a Deputy Concrete and Masonry Inspector for Southern California Testing Labs where he performed inspections on masonry and concrete structures in order to insure compliance with approved plans and structural specifications. In 1982, Keith came to the City of Corona and he began as a

Building Inspector. He quickly rose up the ranks: he became a Senior Building Inspector in 1984, an Assistant Building Official in 1986, a Building Official/Director in 1989, the Acting Director of Parks and Community Services in 2005 and the Building Official/Director from October 2005 to March 31, 2009.

Keith is a member of several organizations, including: the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), the International Association of Electrical Inspectors, the International Fire Code Institute, Building Officials and Code Administrators, the Citrus Belt Chapter of ICBO, and California Building Officials. He also serves or has served on the California Building Officials (CALBO) Board of Directors, the CALBO State Contractors License Board, the United States Navy League, the CALBO State Historical Code Committee, the ICC Citrus Belt Chapter, the Toastmasters International, and the Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Club and as a Calbo CTI Instructor.

Keith has received several awards over the years including: Building Inspector of the Year; Citrus Belt Chapter ICBO 1986; Building Official of the Year; Citrus Belt Chapter ICBO 1988; Toastmasters, Best Table Topics Speech Contest 1997; California Building Officials, Building Department of the Year, 2003; California Building Officials, Building Official of the Year, 2004; and California Building Officials, Hall of Fame Award, 2009.

Keith's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. I am proud to call Keith a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him and his 27 years of service to the City of Corona.

HONORING ROBERT AYERS GOULD,
SR.

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Robert Ayers Gould, Sr., for his exceptional leadership and outstanding public service.

After graduating from Athens High School in 1957, Bob joined the United States Navy where he served aboard the USS *Coral Sea*. Following an Honorable Discharge, he returned to Athens where he opened the Gould Insurance Agency in 1962, which he has owned and operated for over forty years.

Bob Gould served on the City Council of Athens for twelve years before his retirement in 2007, where he oversaw many projects benefiting his community. Among his many civic activities, Bob has been the Director and Vice-President of the Athens Chamber of Commerce, Co-Founder of the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame, and the Charter Director for the Henderson County YMCA. He has also received many awards from his community, including the Roadhand Award from the Texas Highway Commission and the Athens Citizen of the Year Award in 1984.

In addition to faithfully serving his community, Bob is a husband to Mrs. Peggy Lorene

Lubben Gould and father of four children: Robert Jr., Joseph, Patricia, and Mary.

I want to recognize Bob for his service and commitment to his community. Due to Bob's leadership in the city and throughout the business community, Athens remains a strong, supportive, and vibrant community.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 5th District of Texas, it is my pleasure to recognize my good friend Mr. Robert Ayers Gould, Sr. for being an invaluable public servant and community leader.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRIVATE
PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT OF
2009

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to reintroduce the Private Property Protection Act of 2009. I am also pleased to be joined again by Rep. JIM SENSENBRENNER, the Chairman Emeritus of the Judiciary, and the lead Republican on this bipartisan bill. This bill is successor to H.R. 3053, from the 110th Congress and we are joined today by 24 original copponsors.

The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution provides in part that "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

On June 23, 2005, a majority of the Supreme Court chose to close its eyes to the Constitution and our Nation's rich history of protecting private property rights. The Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in *Kelo vs. City of New London*, held that "economic development" can be a "public use" under the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause justifying the government's taking of private property. The Court held that the creation of a more lucrative tax base can justify the government's taking of private property from one small homeowner and giving it to a large corporation for a private research facility.

The *Kelo* decision interpreted government taking for "public use" to mean no more than "public purpose." Put simply, this decision meant that government would have an almost unlimited ability to seize private property—homes, churches, synagogues, and thriving businesses—and hand it over to private companies so long as they convince the local land authority that the project will yield economic benefit for a community that has been arbitrarily deemed "distressed." Private companies and developers all over the country went into a frenzy to file project site plans when *Kelo* was decided. They knew that they would be able to make huge amounts of money so long as they produced public benefit—this was a ridiculous over-expansion of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

As the dissent in *Kelo* pointed out, "To reason, as the Court does, that the incidental public benefits resulting from the subsequent ordinary use of private property render economic development takings 'for public use' is to wash out any distinction between private and public use of property—and thereby effectively to delete the words 'for public use' from the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment." The dissent made clear that, as a result of the

majority's decision, "Any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party, but the fallout from this decision will not be random. The beneficiaries are likely to be those citizens with disproportionate influence and power in the political process, including large corporations and development firms. As for the victims, the government now has license to transfer property from those with fewer resources to those with more. The Founders cannot have intended this perverse result."

The bottom line is that local and Federal governments must take every landowner as a special case because the people who own the properties that are subject to economic redevelopment play just as big a role as the projected revenues that the local jurisdiction hopes to bring in with a new development. Just because you are poor does not mean that your right to private property is worth any less than that of a wealthy developer.

The Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2009 will restore the property rights of all Americans that the Supreme Court changed with the Kelo decision. This legislation would prevent the Federal Government or any authority of the Federal Government from using economic development as a justification for exercising its power of eminent domain. This bill would also discourage States and localities from abusing their eminent domain power by denying States or localities that commit such abuse all Federal economic development funds for a period of two years. This bill is substantially similar to H.R. 4128, legislation that passed the House in the 109th Congress by an overwhelmingly vote of 376–38, nearly a 10–1 margin, but unfortunately, was never enacted.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to protect the private property rights of every American and hope they will join me in sponsoring the Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2009.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

For 60 years, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship that has been of mutual political, economic, cultural, and strategic benefit. When the United States shifted diplomatic relations from the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the People's Republic of China in January 1979, Congress moved quickly to pass the Taiwan Relations Act to ensure that the United States would have continued commercial, cultural, and other relations with Taiwan. With President Carter's signature on April 10, 1979, this important and lasting piece of legislation became law and codified the basis for relations between the United States and Taiwan. This year will mark the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Over these past 30 years, Taiwan has seen remarkable changes, from rapid economic

growth to significant political transformation. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Taiwan witnessed a peaceful transition of political power from a one-party state under martial law to a full-fledged democracy and a multi-party political system. In March of last year, the people of Taiwan participated in Taiwan's fourth direct and democratic presidential election. The smooth and peaceful transition from one administration to another is a testament to Taiwan's continued dedication to the principles of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

The Taiwan Relations Act has also been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability across the Taiwan Strait. When the Taiwan Relations Act was signed into law, it affirmed that the United States' decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means. The Act also states that "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability." I believe that, in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act, the United States should continue to support the legitimate defense needs of Taiwan.

It is my hope that the United States, Taiwan, and the People's Republic of China can continue to work together to promote enduring peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, especially across the Taiwan Strait. Let us recognize the past 30 years of the Taiwan Relations Act and maintain and strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations for many years to come.

HONORABLE JOHN LAWRENCE MADURO

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, one of the legends of the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Honorable John Lawrence Maduro will be laid to rest next week. Many will rise to speak in his honor for he was one of the founding fathers of the political system in the territory and as a consequence someone who influenced our community in the social and economic aspects as well.

Born on St. Thomas, Maduro was a graduate of Charlotte Amalie High School, New York University and George Washington University School of Law. He served in World War II in the North African and European theaters and achieved the rank of Master Sergeant and later Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves.

We were proud to honor him and all living WWII Veterans in the Virgin Islands two years ago, and he was always very proud of his service.

When he returned to the Virgin Islands in the 1950s, he became active in politics and in the process became one of the titans of the Legislature, serving for twenty-two years. He presided over the body twice and during his tenure, worked with his colleagues to achieve political rights for the territory that included the right to elect its own governor and delegate to

Congress, the right of the Legislature to apportion its seat in accordance to the vote rule, the right to fix the compensation of its members and the rights to override gubernatorial vetoes.

Maduro presented a weekly political radio broadcast that kept his constituency informed about legislative issues and also was an active partner in the law firm of Birch, deJongh and Farrelly.

It has been said of John L. Maduro that "he was determined to create a Virgin Islands that would offer unlimited opportunities to its citizens in all areas of social, political and economic endeavor and a Virgin Islands where pride in one's heritage and homeland would be everlasting."

Madame Speaker, John L. Maduro and Elmo D. Roebuck, who I spoke of earlier this week are part of a generation of leaders who put their intellect, their discipline and their foresight to the use of the people of the Virgin Islands. They were leaders who we were proud to follow, who rose to the challenge of shepherding the territory through the rapid changes of 20th century modernization and they gave our generation and the generations to follow a territory that is still poised to be a regional leader and a positive example of democratic government.

Madam Speaker, we will miss Johnny Maduro. The people of the Virgin Islands will not forget his example as we work to create for this century, a free and prosperous Virgin Islands.

IRAN'S MISSION FOR NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to Iran's mission for nuclear proliferation. If Iran were to acquire nuclear weapons, the repercussions would be detrimental to our global security. A nuclear Iran would not only pose a threat to the United States and our allies, but would also destabilize an already volatile Middle East region.

Under the guise of energy production, Iran is today actively seeking to acquire nuclear weapon technology. This fact is supported by United Nations inspectors who have found that certain aspects of the Iranian nuclear program are useful only for developing nuclear weapons.

Recently, Iran has further developed its nuclear weapons production capability. In December, Iran constructed a domed containment center adjacent to a heavy water reactor in Arak. This structure makes it impossible to monitor the reactor by satellite. In the past three months, Iran has installed nearly 1,500 centrifuges. As a result, it could take only 2 to 3 months for Iran to enrich uranium to weapons grade. Furthermore, Iran has recently acquired 2,200 pounds of low enriched uranium—enough for one first-generation nuclear bomb.

A nuclear Iran would significantly impact the surrounding region. The repercussions would be felt not only by Middle Eastern countries, but also by countries around the world. The possible outcomes could range from a Middle

Eastern nuclear arms race to the sale of nuclear technology to terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas.

It is widely accepted that Iran is one of the largest sponsors of terrorism; this reality has been published in the Central Intelligence Agency's World Factbook analysis of Iran. The United States, the United Nations, and the European Union have all placed economic sanctions on Iran due to Iran's sponsorship of terrorism. Hezbollah, a terrorist organization formulated and supported by Iran, is responsible for numerous terrorist attacks; the most infamous of these attacks occurred in Beirut on October 23, 1983 when Hezbollah detonated a bomb inside a U.S. Marine Barracks and killed nearly 300 servicemen.

It is imperative that we in Congress do everything we can to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. I am pleased by the recent steps taken by my Congressional colleagues to ensure that this event never takes place. Specifically, I was encouraged that the Financial Services Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade held a hearing about H.R. 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act, on March 12. Afterward, I urged Chairman BARNEY FRANK to schedule a markup of H.R. 1327 sometime before the April recess.

In closing, I urge my fellow Members to support taking the necessary steps to limit Iran's access to nuclear weapons. We must convince Iran to turn away from its current, dangerous course of action.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ADMIRAL ROBERT E. PEARY AND MATTHEW HENSON'S ARRIVAL AT THE NORTH POLE

HON. MICHAEL M. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Admiral Robert E. Peary and Matthew Henson becoming the first documented explorers to reach the North Pole on April 6, 1909.

Admiral Peary and Matthew Henson through careful planning, foresight, and extreme fortitude reached the North Pole through great danger and peril to themselves. Where many men had failed and perished, these two men succeeded.

Completing their mission took over eighteen years and was delayed, hampered, and restarted many times. Through all the failures and hardships these two brave men would not allow adversity or disappointment to keep them from their goal.

Their path to the North Pole was long and arduous, but through ingenuity and with help from the Native Inuit, they managed to plant the American flag at the North Pole and survive the trip back.

Peary and Henson had made previous trips north before their ultimate success. They suffered through the arctic cold and they even needed to turn back because of the rough weather.

Despite not reaching the North Pole on these previous attempts, they had voyaged further north than any men in recorded history.

While pursuing his dream of reaching the North Pole, Peary was on leave from the

United States Navy where he was a civil engineer. Upon successful completion of his eighth and final expedition, he was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.

Matthew Henson's contributions to the success of the exploration remained obscured and ignored for many years. His eventual induction into the Explorer's Club and acknowledgement by President Eisenhower can be recognized again by celebrating this important anniversary.

Admiral Robert Peary and Matthew Henson achieved their dreams and proved to America and the rest of the world that we can accomplish anything if we put our minds, hearts, and souls into it. Their drive and hard work still shine as an example to us all.

I am proud today to honor Admiral Robert Peary and Matthew Henson.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize World Autism Awareness Day that is held on April 2. This special day is held to educate people about this birth disorder that is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the U.S. The cause of autism has not been determined so there is a great need for funding to research its cause.

It is important to understand this disorder since 1 in 150 individuals are diagnosed with autism. It occurs in all racial, ethnic, and social groups and is four times more likely to strike boys than girls. Autism impairs a person's ability to communicate and relate to others. It is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive behaviors, such as obsessively arranging objects or following very specific routines. Autism usually is detected by parents who notice unusual behaviors or developmental problems in children as young as 6 months. There are several services available to help autistic people live their own independent lives and to participate and contribute to their communities. Although this is a developmental disability, people with autism still achieve and accomplish many things in life. Several autistic people attend college and hold a variety of jobs from those that require enormous amounts of concentration but limited intense interaction with others, such as computer programming or graphic design, or more repetitive jobs, such as filing.

More still needs to be done to help those that have autism and to find the cause. Through broader awareness this can be accomplished.

IN HONOR OF THE 2008 SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, as the Sacramento River Cats 2009 home opener approaches, I rise in tribute of their 2008 season in which they defended their title as Pacific

Coast League and the Triple-A Champions. After marching through the Pacific Coast League playoffs, the River Cats defeated the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees to win the Bricktown Showdown for the second consecutive year. As the River Cats prepare for the 2009 season, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in recognizing their remarkable 2008 accomplishments.

The River Cats were consistent all year and finished atop the Pacific Coast League Southern Division at the end of the regular season with 83 wins and only 61 losses. Their opening playoff series matched them up with the Salt Lake City Bee's. The River Cats made quick work of the Bee's, defeating them in four games by scoring a total of 39 runs.

The second round pitted the River Cats against the Texas Rangers AAA affiliate, the Oklahoma City Red Hawks. The River Cats prevailed, 3 games to 1, led by post-season MVP Chris Denorfia who went 17-35, with 12 runs scored and four homers in the post-season. By defeating the Red Hawks, the 2008 River Cats won their second straight Pacific Coast League title and their fourth in the last six years.

After claiming the Pacific Coast League title in Oklahoma City, they stayed in Oklahoma City for one more game, the Bricktown Showdown, an annual match up to declare the AAA champion. Led by six different pitchers, the River Cats stifled the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees offense en route to a 4-1 victory. The game and championship season concluded in dramatic fashion when River Cats infielder Brooks Conrad turned a line drive double-play on an outstanding diving catch.

For another year, the leadership of Art Savage, the River Cats President and CEO, the entire front office, Manager Todd Steversson, and the players on the field played a vital role in the team's success. On and off the field, the River Cats organization once again was the envy of the entire Pacific Coast League. Their success and professionalism was reciprocated by the Sacramento fans, as the River Cats led the Pacific Coast League in attendance for an astounding 9th year in a row.

Madam Speaker, as the River Cats prepare for another successful season, I am honored to pay tribute to the many hard-working men and women of the River Cats organization who brought so much joy and pride to the people of Sacramento. Their successes are truly remarkable. I ask all my colleagues to join me in celebrating the River Cats 2008 championship season.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1256, The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. This legislation is good for our children. It keeps tobacco out of our children's hands and restricts advertising directed at young people. This legislation also works to ensure the quality and relative safety of tobacco products, in spite of their known dangers to human health.

As a Member of this body who represents a tobacco growing area, I worked to ensure that this is balanced legislation. This is not a perfect bill, but it does represent an approach that considers the impact on those whose livelihoods depend on farming tobacco. North Carolina is the largest tobacco producing state in the Nation and my district is in the top three of overall production. We cannot simply ignore the economic impact that this crop represents to our state, and in this legislation we have not done so.

Tobacco remains a legal product, but we need to protect our Nation's children from its effects. H.R. 1256 puts in place uniform marketing standards and controls, as well as ensuring that the marketing is straightforward, and that the ingredients are properly disclosed.

While this bill will go a long way in protecting our Nation's children from tobacco, it allows our Nation's tobacco farmers to continue their way of life. As the Chairman has assured me in our colloquy on the House floor, this legislation will keep FDA off the farm.

I urge my colleague's to protect our Nation's children and support our Nation's farmers. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 1256.

IN HONOR OF HULET HORNBECK

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend to my colleagues an article in the Martinez News Gazette, my hometown paper, that beautifully captures the wonderful contributions that Hulet Hornbeck has made to the environment and open space in our portion of the East Bay of San Francisco.

The article is entitled, "Life, Love and the Great Outdoors," dated February 28–March 1, 2009.

I have known Hulet for many, many years and I have always admired him as a great leader and an avid defender of the environment. He understood many years ago just how important it is to protect open space for generations to come. He has been a leader in our community in acquiring lands for public use and creating magnificent recreational and open space opportunities for young and old alike.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Hulet for his lifelong work and I am proud to be able to rise today to publicly thank Hulet for his vision and for his tireless efforts on behalf of our community.

[From the Martinez News-Gazette, Feb. 28–March 1, 2009]

LIFE, LOVE AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS

HULET HORNBECK WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN EXPANDING EAST BAY REGIONAL PARKS, THE LARGEST PARK AGENCY IN THE NATION

(By Greta Mart)

At his serene, wooded home in Muir Oaks, Hulet Hornbeck looks out at the horse pastures and wildflower-blanketed hills and savors the sound of silence.

"It's the sound of wind, of birds, or simply the trees rustling, I love it," Hornbeck said, standing on his wooden deck that hugs his

one-story house, in which comforting silence permeates. Inside a fire burns quietly in a large stone hearth; non-fiction books are stacked three feet high and four feet deep on the grand piano, oriental rugs dot the hardwood floor, and 50 years of treasures, travel mementos and memories decorate the walls.

In October he will turn 90. A lifetime of adventure, good works and good luck has kept him spry, handsome and spirited. He is one more Martinez resident—one you might see at the store or on Main Street—who holds in his heart an extraordinary character, and if you enjoy the plentiful open space and parkland around the area, you would understand how important his efforts are to you today.

On Thursday he regaled this reporter with an abridged life story.

Born in New Jersey in 1919, Hornbeck spent his first decade in Detroit, until his father abandoned the family at the start of the Great Depression. His mother moved him and his younger sister back to New Jersey to be closer to her two sisters, who provided "some degree of comfort," said Hornbeck.

There, in a suburb of Newark, he shared a bed with a cousin and his sister went to a friend's house while his mother went to work in a factory. During his teenage years, Hornbeck's mother worked her way up the socioeconomic ladder, segueing into sales and earning enough to move the family into a four-story walkup in Bloomfield.

"I liked it, because we could finally live together, and I got good exercise going up and down the stairs," said Hornbeck. "My mother was quite liberal with me, never telling me that I couldn't do something. If I said I wanted to sleep on the roof, she said okay, but tie a rope around your ankle so you don't sleepwalk off."

FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE GREAT OUTDOORS

He was befriended by a local Boy Scout troupe leader, and soon was accompanying groups on camping trips in the Ramapo Mountains. Hornbeck's mother and aunts liked to hike, and with little money and no car, hiking was a frequent form of entertaining excursions for the family. There was still a great deal of open space and nature in New Jersey in the 1930s, said Hornbeck, before the freeways and industrialization obliterated the landscape.

When his mother purchased a used car, the family took its first vacation, down to Cape May in the southern tip of New Jersey. There they stayed in a boardinghouse, and Hornbeck, at age 17, was so impressed with this new environment he asked his mother if he could stay on there for the summer. She told him to go to the hotel across the street and ask for a job.

"I asked the guy if I could wash dishes, and he made me a bus boy. At that time there weren't a lot of restaurants and such, the hotel fed three meals a day to a lot of people, it was a big dinning hall with the girl waitresses lined up against one wall and the boys on the other," Hornbeck. "There was a separate smaller dinning room, where a big family would sit for meals, curtained off from the main hall. They had their own waitresses and bus boys. My boss told me it was the Ambassador to Great Britain and his family."

The U.S. Ambassador to England at the time was Joseph Kennedy and the children Hornbeck watched meal after meal were Robert, Teddy, Rosemary and the four youngest siblings of JFK. JFK wasn't there, as he was already in his 20s at that point and was studying at Harvard.

"I remember saying to my coworkers, you watch, those kids are going to be something else," said Hornbeck.

A small inheritance from a Unitarian Universalist minister, a suitor of his mother's,

then sent Hornbeck to prep school at the Newark Academy.

"He had asked my mother to marry him, but then he died, so for \$50 a month, I got a whole different viewpoint and knowledge for two years," said Hornbeck. "It opened my eyes. After that I hitchhiked to Maine with a friend and we slept in the woods. I got cleaned up in a gas station and went to the registrar of the University of Maine and asked if I could attend. He was impressed that we had come all that way and he said, you're in, just like that."

His time in Maine was spent studying Forestry and luxuriating in the great outdoors, spending school breaks in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

WORLD WAR II

But the looming clouds of war were gathering and Hornbeck, after his sophomore year, told his friends and family there would be a war in Europe, and he was going to join the military.

"I told them I wanted to be trained by the time it started, and that I wanted to fight in the air, not ground," said Hornbeck. "I joined the Army Air Corps, and was sent to cadet school. They saw pretty quickly that I didn't have good eye/hand coordination, and that I liked mathematics, so they made me a navigator."

Pan American Airlines operated one of the few aerial navigation schools at the time, in Coral Gables, Florida, and Hornbeck studied there until November of 1941, when the Air Corps shipped half of his class to Salt Lake City. There his platoon was, introduced to the brand-new B 17 "Flying Fortress" bombers they would soon be flying in the Pacific Theater.

On December 6, Hornbeck was at Hamilton Field in San Francisco, ready to ship out to the Philippines, with a stop in Honolulu, the next day.

"I was still in my blue cadet's uniform, and right before take-off we heard, 'you can't go,' something has happened," said Hornbeck. "Well, we took off that night I steered us all the way to Hawaii using the compass and drift meter, getting a fix on the stars, and suddenly we were right off of Diamond Head [on the island of Oahu]."

Soon he was part of the famed Reconnaissance Squadrons that plied the South Pacific for the next three years, serving as the eyes of General McCarthy and Fleet Admiral Nimitz, and using his navigation skills to locate the Japanese naval fleet in the vast ocean waters.

After the war Hornbeck returned to the States to earn a law degree at Rutgers University courtesy of the G.I. Bill.

"While we were in the South Pacific, I asked a buddy, where's a good Western town to go live when this is over. He said Boise, Idaho," said Hornbeck. "Sure enough, I got myself to Boise and met Mary-Lynn." The two were married for 50 years until Mary-Lynn's death twelve years ago.

MOVING TO MARTINEZ

The pair first lived in New York City, and soon Hornbeck requested a transfer to San Francisco. They rented a house in Pleasant Hill, until Mary-Lynn found their home in Muir Oaks.

"She said, you don't even have to come look at it, it was built for you," said Hornbeck.

Mary-Lynn attended DVC, and then U.C. Berkeley, while raising their two children, Jane and Lawrence, and teaching fourth grade at John Muir Elementary for 20 years.

"It took her several years to get her degree, because she only went to classes at night or on the weekends, she never attended a full semester. When she was finally finished, she said I'm too embarrassed to go get

my diploma, so I went to get it for her," said Hornbeck.

Meanwhile, Hornbeck was working at a large insurance firm in San Francisco, but it was "not what I was cut out to do," and on the side he had started a group of nature enthusiasts called the Contra Costa Park Council.

BRUSH WITH DEATH

In 1965, a doctor's visit revealed melanoma tumor. The doctor gave him five years to live and encouraged him to start pursuing his dreams.

"I went to Bill Mott of the East Bay Regional Park District, and said, I want to work for you," Hornbeck said. "Timing is so significant."

According to the East Bay Regional Parks District's history section of its Web site, "In 1962, William Penn Mott, Jr. became the District's next General Manager. Mott's first order of business at the Park District was to reorganize and plan for the future. He brought new life to every aspect of the District's operation by restructuring, and bringing in talented professionals like Richard Trudeau, Chief of Public Information and Hulet Hornbeck, Chief of Land Acquisition who both would serve as leaders in the park and trail movement during the next 40 years. Mott's enthusiastic vision of a grand system of hilltop and shoreline parks would require additional stable funding, and he moved quickly to increase District revenues. The Forward 1964-1969 Plan was developed by Mott and his staff in 1963 to identify the Park projects that were needed to serve all East Bay residents, even those outside of the District's boundary. In 1962, residents in Contra Costa County had turned down a funding measure for county parks; so park supporters began pushing for annexation to the Regional Park District. In 1964, voters in West and Central Contra Costa County approved annexation to the District, and Kennedy Grove and Briones were soon developed and opened as the first Regional Parks entirely within Contra Costa County."

Hornbeck said the District didn't have a single square acre of parkland when he started, but by the time he retired in 1985, 64,000 acres were purchased and incorporated into the park system, including much of Briones and the Franklin Hills.

"Now it's over 100,000 acres, and thanks to the recent passage of Measure WW, it will keep growing. As a special district, we had the power of eminent domain, but we never used it as a threat, and we always paid fair market value," said Hornbeck. "We had the support of all the key developers in the area, who knew the value of balancing people with open space, and we always worked with justice and integrity. The public supported us."

Hornbeck said Senator John Nejedly was instrumental in securing legislation that expanded the District's ability to create a trail system.

The Hulet Hornbeck trail in the Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline was dedicated in 2005.

"Hulet is credited with overseeing the acquisition of 49,000 acres of parkland, expanding the District's land holdings from eight parks (13,000 acres) to 46 parks (62,000 acres) thus securing the unique position that the East Bay Regional Park District still enjoys today as being the largest regional park agency in the nation," according to the non-profit American Trails organization.

IMPROVING FEDERAL FINANCING FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE TERRITORIES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced two bills to increase the percentage of clean water state revolving loan funds and drinking water state revolving loan funds annually reserved for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, and the Virgin Islands under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act respectively. The effect of these bills would be, if enacted, to increase by approximately 50% the amounts of federal funding awarded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) annually under these state revolving loan funds to each of the governments of these territories to help them finance critical water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

I am joined by my colleagues from the territories, Mr. FALOMAVAEGA of American Samoa, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN of the Virgin Islands, and Mr. SABLAN of the Northern Mariana Islands, in introducing these two bills. H.R. 1889 would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and H.R. 1890 would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. These bills help ensure that all Americans, including our constituents, enjoy access to clean and safe drinking water.

Specifically, H.R. 1889 and H.R. 1890 would require the reservation of one half of a percent of amounts made available each fiscal year for grants to the states and territories under both revolving funds. Currently, the four territories are limited by statute to a third of a percent of total funding, meaning that they actually receive less on a per capita basis than a number of states. This inequity persists in spite of the fact that the territories have some of the most severe needs for federal assistance for clean water and drinking water infrastructure projects. With respect to the Pacific territories, the USEPA generally estimates that over 25% of the population lacks access to sanitary drinking water. That figure is a mere 0.6% nationwide. Furthermore, federal courts have ruled that the territories' water and wastewater systems are in non-compliance with federal laws and regulations and have ordered a wide range of improvements and upgrades. However, the territorial governments are currently challenged in financing these court-ordered projects as a result of budget shortfalls and declining revenues associated with the economic downturn. As a result, the territorial governments remain, in certain cases, unable to comply with the court mandates without risking bankruptcy. In sum, the very regions of the United States that have the direst need for assistance in financing water and wastewater infrastructure are limited by federal law to a diminutive fraction of a percent of total funding. In contrast, each state is guaranteed under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act to receive each fiscal year no less than a full one percent of total funding irrespective of need or population.

Madam Speaker, raising the cap on funding made available to assist the territories from a third of a percent to one-half a percent would be a significant step toward fulfilling critical needs for new infrastructure in the territories. A one-half of a percent funding level is consistent with funding set-asides for the territories under other laws enacted by Congress governing formula grant programs. Finally, because the states are each guaranteed a minimum level of funding as opposed to the ceiling set on the territories, these bills will not significantly impact funding made available to help finance projects in the rest of the United States.

In effect, raising the cap from a third of a percent to a half a percent involves less than five one-thousandths of one percent of the federal budget. It would, however, have a tangible and measurable impact on the health and quality of life for hundreds of thousands of American citizens and nationals residing in the territories. Madam Speaker, I urge a thorough review of this issue and these bills by the committees of jurisdiction.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PAKISTAN ENDURING ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to talk about the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement Act—or PEACE Act—a bill I introduced today with a distinguished group of original cosponsors, including Mr. KIRK, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. WEXLER. The fundamental purpose of this legislation is to strengthen the U.S. relationship with Pakistan—a country that is central to our national security and to global stability.

The timing of this bill could not be more crucial. We stand at a pivotal moment in our relations with Pakistan and in our campaign to bring stability and security to Afghanistan. Several days ago, the Obama Administration unveiled its new strategy for those countries, the main focus of which is to enhance our ability to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda in its safe havens in Pakistan. The PEACE Act is written with that critical goal in mind. But it also reflects our deep appreciation of the fact that it is in our national interest to create a long-term strategic partnership with Pakistan; one that speaks to the needs of the average citizens of Pakistan—those who live in rural areas, without access to adequate education or healthcare, and who have suffered at the hands of a frequently dysfunctional and corrupt judicial system and police force.

By tripling U.S. assistance for democratic, economic and social development, our bill lays the foundation for a creating a stronger, more stable Pakistan. It places a particular emphasis on strengthening Pakistan's fragile democratic institutions—including the parliament and judicial system—enhancing economic development by increasing local capacity, and improving Pakistan's education system and vocational training.

To help ensure that American assistance is spent appropriately, our legislation requires increased auditing, monitoring and evaluation, and includes rigorous reporting requirements. U.S. taxpayers—and the Pakistani people—should know that our assistance is making a real difference, and not being squandered.

For many years, the U.S. relationship with Pakistan has been characterized by fits and starts. Now that Pakistan has returned to an elected civilian democracy, it is important to emphasize our long-term commitment to the Pakistani people. To achieve that goal, our bill establishes a Pakistan Freedom and Prosperity Fund, a permanent fund in the U.S. Treasury that serves as a conduit for all social and economic development assistance. At the same time, we must take a hard look at what we want from Pakistan. We clearly want them to be a partner and a friend. In that spirit, we also expect them to take action against those who threaten Pakistani and American security interests. Our bill clarifies these expectations.

Achieving stability in Pakistan, however, will require more than economic assistance—it will also require us to provide Pakistan the tools it needs to protect its people, secure its borders and augment its ongoing counterterrorism operations. To that end, our bill authorizes increased Foreign Military Financing (FMF), while requiring that the vast majority of such assistance be used for counterterrorism and counterinsurgency purposes. It also authorizes increased assistance for International Military Education and Training (IMET), which will enhance cooperation between the U.S. and Pakistani militaries.

Finally, our bill requires that military assistance may only be provided to Pakistan if the President determines that the Government of Pakistan is continuing to cooperate with the United States in preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and has both demonstrated a sustained commitment to combating terrorist groups and has made progress towards that end.

Madam Speaker, we cannot succeed in defeating al Qaeda by ourselves. We need a robust, long-term relationship with our strategic partners to prevail against those who threaten our national security. The PEACE Act will help us establish just such a relationship with Pakistan.

EDWARD M. KENNEDY SERVE
AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism Education (GIVE) Act of 2009, also known as the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.

The GIVE Act is designed to support and encourage community service across the country in fields such as education and healthcare. This Act empowers more Americans to take an active role in their communities through public service. Civic participation has the power to not only build confidence in the individual but simultaneously prepare our nation for the future.

The GIVE Act creates 175,000 new service opportunities, increasing the number of participants in programs such as Ameri-Corps and establishes new service programs such as the Clean Energy Corps, Education Corps, Healthy Futures Corps, and a Veterans Service Corps. One goal of the Act will be to strengthen and coordinate disaster relief efforts through the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) to provide relief for communities that have suffered natural disasters and emergencies.

Despite the economic challenges that our country currently faces, it is particularly encouraging that young Americans are serving in record numbers. Volunteerism among college students is especially high, with the percentage of college students who volunteer each year exceeding 30%. The GIVE Act will not only support existing volunteers but will also give younger students the opportunity to serve even before they enter college. The Summer of Service and Campus of Service Programs focus on encouraging middle and high school students to participate in volunteer activities and also assist college students with an interest in public service careers. These programs will place the prospect of a college education within the reach of many students by offering monetary assistance for college. Specifically, it increases the full-time education award that servicemembers can receive to \$5,350.

It is important to acknowledge that students are not the only ones taking the initiative to rebuild our country. Currently, Senior Corps consists of roughly 475,000 volunteers who collectively contribute 116 million hours of service each year. The GIVE Act will increase these figures by creating Silver Scholarships and Encore Fellowships to offer all Americans over the age of 55 the chance to transition into service after retirement.

I believe that service is key to building character and instilling values in our young people. Even before taking office, President Obama consistently called on all Americans to serve, and I believe his life exemplifies the power of public service. I am proud that Congress has answered his call for service through this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC
SERVICE OF SPEAKER CARLOS
P. TAITANO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and public service of the Honorable Carlos Pangelinan Taitano, a distinguished resident of Guam who passed away on March 25, 2009. Carlos served our nation and the people of Guam as an officer in the United States Army, a community leader, businessman, attorney, Assemblyman in the Guam Congress, Senator in the 3rd Guam Legislature and Speaker of the 8th Guam Legislature.

Born on March 14, 1917 to Jose San Nicolas and Dolores P. Taitano of Hagatña, Carlos attended elementary and middle school on Guam. He subsequently moved to Hawaii to attend high school. After his high school graduation from McKinley High School in Hawaii,

Carlos enrolled in the University of Hawaii where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry in 1941. After graduation from the University of Hawaii, he was hired by the Honolulu Police Department as an Assistant Chemist. At the onset of World War II Carlos joined the United States Army and was commissioned as an officer. He participated in the campaign to liberate the Philippines. After the war, he was assigned to Fort Ruger, Hawaii and Fort Meade, Maryland. It was during the latter posting in Maryland that he married Marian Agueda Johnston.

Carlos and Marian returned to Guam in 1947, and in 1948 he was elected to the Guam Congress as an Assemblyman. Carlos was an advocate for United States citizenship for the Chamorro people who had endured a brutal enemy occupation. He famously organized a walkout by the Guam Congress on March 5, 1949 to call attention to Guam's quest for a civilian government to replace the post-war Naval government. He fed news of the walkout to the national media, and coverage of this event in national newspapers helped to raise awareness about the plight of the Chamorro people. This event gave momentum to Congressional efforts to pass the Organic Act of Guam in 1950 which granted United States citizenship to the Chamorros on Guam and established a civilian government. He was the only Chamorro in attendance at the White House signing ceremony of the Organic Act of Guam on August 1, 1950 by President Harry S. Truman.

Carlos was accepted to the law program at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. where he graduated with a Juris Doctor degree in 1953. While at Georgetown University, Carlos participated in activities with the Guam community in the National Capital area and was instrumental in founding the Guam Territorial Society to promote Guam and our Chamorro culture.

In 1953 Carlos returned to Guam and helped to establish the Territorial Party of Guam, which later became the Republican Party of Guam. He was elected to the 3rd Guam Legislature in 1954. After serving one term in the Legislature, Carlos returned to his business interests which included the Micronesian Village, a gift shop featuring Micronesian and Chamorro arts and crafts. In the mid-1960s Carlos became the President and General Manager of Guam's Coca-Cola Bottling Company, a position he held for six years.

Carlos reentered public service in 1965 and was elected to the 8th Guam Legislature. He was selected by his colleagues to serve as Speaker, an honor that recognized his many contributions to Guam's political development. Under his leadership, the 8th Guam Legislature urged the United States Congress to expand self-governance for the people of Guam by amending the Organic Act to authorize the direct election of the Governor of Guam and to provide a Delegate to Congress. Carlos' vision for self-governance was passed by the 90th Congress in 1968 for the elected Governor and by the 92nd Congress in 1972 for the Delegate to Congress.

Carlos contributed his time and resources to civic organizations and government boards throughout his life to help improve our community. His civic contributions included notable service as the first president of the Guam Bar Association, past president of the Rotary Club of Guam, past chairman of the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Board of Trustees, and

past president of the Reserve Officers Association of Guam.

Throughout his life, Carlos promoted the preservation and celebration of the Chamorro culture. He was among the first authors of plays and pageants depicting Chamorro epic tales, and he wrote essays calling attention to the need to do more to promote the Chamorro language and culture. He encouraged cultural groups to perform chants and dances that depicted Chamorro culture in the pre-contact era. He helped to found Pa'a Taotao Tano', an organization of cultural performers and their supporters who are dedicated to preserving a more authentic portrayal of Chamorro culture in song and dance. He promoted indigenous culture and pride at a time when Guam was undergoing many social and economic changes, and his voice reminded us then as now of the importance of the Chamorro culture to our people and to our nation.

The people of Guam will always remember Speaker Carlos Pangelinan Taitano as a visionary leader who was proud of his Chamorro heritage. He served our nation and our island as a soldier and statesman and his contributions will always be appreciated and

remembered. I join the people of Guam in extending our sympathy to Marian Taitano and to their children, Linda, Carl and Tyrone and their extended family. Speaker Carlos P. Taitano was a leader and public servant who inspired us in many ways and we honor his contributions to our island community and to our nation.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the second annual World Autism Awareness Day. As the Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Health Care Caucus, I recognize the debilitating force that is autism and I am proud to recognize Worldwide Autism Awareness Day in order to bring attention to this life-altering and, too often, unrecognized disorder.

I am proud to consistently support medical research on autism and its causes. I have worked with many members of this body and many other individuals and groups to increase funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in order to more fully understand the root causes and best prevention practices to minimize its debilitating effects.

But we must continue to work. Evidence shows that one in every 150 American children is affected by an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Last year at this time, there was no medical detection or cure for autism. This year, there has been progress to uncover more about the root causes of ASD related disorders and why they may occur more often than expected among people who have certain other medical conditions.

Families need hope, and we must make a commitment to help them find the missing pieces to the puzzle. I urge all of my colleagues to continue supporting NIH funding so that—as groups like Autism Speaks and Families for Early Autism Treatment know—we can continue to fight against the fastest-growing developmental disability in the world.